

JEFFERSON LAND TRUST



CONSERVATION PLAN

Visions, Actions, and Priorities
for Voluntary Land Conservation
in Jefferson County

JEFFERSON LAND TRUST

CONSERVATION PLAN

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	Page 3
HABITAT	Page 12
FORESTRY	Page 20
AGRICULTURE	Page 28
RECREATION & TOURISM	Page 38

*All historic photos courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.
All other photos Jefferson Land Trust, unless credited.*

Conservation Plan production date June, 2010





Preface

Back in 2005, when Jefferson Land Trust began the conservation planning process, we recognized the immense and vital nature of the work ahead of us. Increasing population, rising development pressures, and climate change promise to change the landscape around us. We now occupy a small – and ever-shrinking – window of opportunity to help determine the nature of those changes and to shape the future landscape for our children, and our grandchildren’s children.

The buildout analysis map (page 10-11) is a stark illustration of the potential development we could see in Jefferson County. If we don’t take the chance we have now to determine how we want our home to look in a hundred years, and take the steps to make it happen, we will lose the unprotected open land that includes much diverse habitat, rich agricultural land, scenic vistas, open shorelines, and the deep forests that make this place like no other, that draw us here, enchant us, and make this the place we choose to call our home.

This conservation plan identifies our conservation priorities, and sets forth the bold actions we must take to be most effective at preserving the best land we have left, before the open spaces and landscapes we enjoy today are erased. Together, we can work to insure that Jefferson County retains its beautiful, fertile, iconic landscapes. Together we can work to insure a healthy agriculture and working forest culture and economy AND vibrant, enticing cities and towns that provide the quality of life we treasure. This plan is a wonderful tool; let’s use it as a springboard for conservation work that is as astounding as this land we love!

This conservation planning effort was made possible by generous financial support from the Port Townsend Paper Mill, the Puget Sound Partnership and the Horizons Foundation. The Cascade Land Conservancy, Jefferson County and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council provided GIS and mapping support. We sincerely appreciate all these contributions.

We also want to thank the individuals and organizations who participated in working group meetings and public meetings, sharing their ideas and visions for the future of Jefferson County. Others contributed time and talent to researching, writing, mapping and editing efforts. This plan represents a lot of hard work by many people, and we look forward to working with even more as we move forward with its implementation together.

Sincerely,

Sarah C Spaeth

Sarah Spaeth
Executive Director

June, 2010



Introduction

Maintaining an abundance of scenic open spaces, productive working lands and native wildlife habitat in the face of an expanding human footprint is one of the principal challenges of this century. It will require both pioneering conservation and innovative development. Nothing short of a broad-based movement is necessary to achieve the future we aim for, and this conservation plan is a product of that movement. It represents the ideas, opinion and research contributed by Jefferson County residents, conservation practitioners, resource managers, and other partners over the course of four years. This plan provides shared goals for our natural resources and economies, it provides conservation priorities for landscapes and natural features, and it provides guidance on how Jefferson Land Trust can best achieve its mission of working with the community to preserve open space, working lands and habitat forever.

To consider the changes ahead, we must first consider those we have experienced since the pioneers arrived more than a century ago. Land use in Jefferson County has transformed a largely wild landscape to one highly organized, cultivated and managed.

Goals of the Conservation Plan

First, this conservation plan will help guide Jefferson Land Trust in fulfilling our community's goals using non-regulatory land conservation tools. It is meant to inspire action and inform decisions, to bring greater focus to all land conservation efforts in Jefferson County, and to bring clarity to our collective desire for a healthy environment and thriving economy for future generations.

This plan also is a call for collaborative action to all conservation partners and other land use stakeholders. We want this plan to inform and inspire the efforts of others, to foster new partnerships, and to complement, rather than replace or supersede, all other relevant plans currently in place.

We expect even more will change in the coming years as our population continues to grow and the climate changes. This plan is the result of Jefferson Land Trust's efforts to bring the community together to visualize our home 100 years from now as a place that continues to support and inspire our children, our grandchildren, and their grandchildren. We all think this place is incredible, yet in the face of so many pressures and demands it will not remain that way forever on its own. We all have a role to play in helping ensure clean air and clean water, vibrant economies, healthy working lands, and abundant wildlife well into the future.

While this plan presents a vision for 100 years from now, we understand that much of the work must be accomplished in the next 20 or 30. We have seen how sprawling development dilutes communities, strangles working lands, and fragments habitat. If we don't embark on a different course, our quality of life, the scenic landscapes and rural character we hold dear, will vanish into history. Building on past successes and momentum, this conservation plan is the beginning of a new era of collaboration to meet a set of ambitious goals.

What this plan does not do is make decisions for Jefferson Land Trust or any partner organization—each new Jefferson Land Trust project and program inspired by this plan will be subject to approval by the board of directors and the principles of sound governance.

Jefferson Land Trust engaged our community in the planning process in order to lay a strong foundation. The resulting plan seeks to promote long-term thinking and relationships. It is intended to evolve alongside our community and our landscape; it is meant to be revisited, changed, and improved.

SPECIFICALLY, THIS CONSERVATION PLAN HAS BEEN DRAFTED TO:

- Identify the priority places which will support vibrant economies, functioning ecosystems, and healthy communities
- Identify the driving forces affecting land use and conservation
- Increase the pace of conservation in Jefferson County
- Inform when and where Jefferson Land Trust should commit resources
- Identify how individual projects fit in a larger conservation framework
- Inform and support the Olympic Agenda



JEFFERSON LAND TRUST has joined Cascade Land Conservancy, North Olympic Land Trust and many residents from all corners of the Olympic Peninsula to generate a 100-year vision for the entire Olympic Peninsula.

The goal of the Olympic Agenda is to harness the best thinking of today's leaders and citizens to ensure that the Olympic Peninsula's working landscapes and rural economy thrive, the communities grow in a sustainable fashion, and our quality of life is maintained over the next 100 years.

Drawing on the experience of creating The Cascade Agenda, the strategies outlined in this vision will provide a non-regulatory guide to conservation and community growth. Market-based incentives that are fair to land owners will help conserve working lands, parks and open space, and critical habitats. Through partnerships with community leaders and businesses, the Olympic Agenda will help ensure vitality in the resource-based economies and critical habitats of the Peninsula while simultaneously creating greater economic growth and quality of life.

JEFFERSON LAND TRUST

20 Years of Successes, Preparing for the Future

Since its incorporation in 1989, Jefferson Land Trust has helped communities permanently protect some of the most iconic, productive and ecologically significant land and water of Jefferson County. It works to recover salmon streams, sustain vast working forests and farms and protect ancient habitats and urban open space.

Driven by support and direction from the community, Jefferson Land Trust founders worked to meet the growing demand for the preservation of important scenic and natural lands in the face of rapidly increasing development pressures. It experienced many successes in those first few years responding to landowner and community requests. The demand for land trust services grew quickly, and the young organization soon realized that other important lands were threatened. It decided to become proactive. It worked to actively engage landowners and sought funding to achieve conservation of lands deemed critical by available science, local knowledge and partners.

Jefferson Land Trust has earned regional recognition for innovative conservation approaches and successes over the years and continues to attract a devoted and growing support base. It also continues to increase its pace of conservation. As Jefferson Land Trust approached its 20th year, the demand for its services and expertise was steadily increasing, and strategic allocation of land trust resources became a constant challenge. The future of land conservation in Jefferson County also became ever more dependent on the successes and strategies of the organization. This history of success and the increasing demand for services led Jefferson Land Trust to embark on the development of this Conservation Plan.



Downtown
Chimacum, 1888



Glendale Dairy,
Chimacum



Stephen Cunliffe



Jefferson County in Perspective

Jefferson County is bordered by waters of the Pacific Ocean, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet and Hood Canal. It crosses the heart of the Olympic Peninsula, and comprises an impressive diversity of ecosystems. The rugged Pacific seacoast gives way to a rolling landscape carpeted with dense temperate rainforests up to the western slopes of the Olympic Mountains. The western river valleys receive the greatest annual precipitation in the contiguous United States and rise to the windswept heights of the Olympic Mountains. Roughly 40 miles of rocky alpine landscapes separate the West from the East side of the county. Descending into the Puget Trough, the comparatively drier Douglas fir-dominated forests are threaded with streams and rivers that cut through to the valley floors and flow into the marine waters of Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Admiralty Inlet.

Like other iconic landscapes in North America, the Peninsula is experiencing increased levels of impact and permanent

loss of open space, working lands and habitat. Recent population growth has put pressure on its traditional natural and rural land base. Particularly during the last four decades, Jefferson County's average annual population growth outpaced Washington State and national averages. Since 1990, the population of Jefferson County has grown 50%, from an estimated 20,000 to 30,000.¹ In the next twenty years, we can expect to see an additional 50% growth.² Our analysis indicates that at these rates most of the legal building sites on vacant land could be converted to commercial, industrial or residential uses as soon as 2075 - bringing the Land Trust's mission into sharp focus. This growth is happening for a number of reasons, among them being the majestic beauty of the Olympic Peninsula, the quality of life, the healthy communities, the abundant natural resources and wildlife, the opportunities for outdoor recreation, the proximity to metropolitan areas, and vast open space - all drawing people to settle and share the experiences this region offers.

¹ State of Washington Office of Financial Management, *Population Trends*, Sept. 2008. <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/poptrends/>

² State of Washington Office of Financial Management, *County Growth Management Act Population Projections*, 2007. <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections07.asp>



Creating a Vision Together

Jefferson Land Trust occupies a central leadership position in fulfilling a community vision to preserve our natural and cultural heritage. Long-standing partnerships, community support, and over twenty years of experience in Jefferson County have all laid the foundation for this planning effort and for the recommendations of this plan. This planning process began with, and aims to support, broad partnerships and community interests.

Strategic conservation planning is widely recognized as important for increased levels of success. Research conducted by the Land Trust

Alliance³ has found that land trusts that focus on strategic conservation priorities fulfill their mission more efficiently. Recognizing this, Jefferson Land Trust reviewed several different models for conservation planning, and designed a process that weighed heavily on community input. A series of 10 meetings through 2008 and 2009 provided the bulk of direct community contribution. Ideas, strategic recommendations, and priorities expressed by individuals who attended these meetings were compiled, reviewed, and considered in formulating this conservation plan.

Organizing the Input

Following the community meetings, Jefferson Land Trust staff and volunteers entered into the phase of processing the information collected into an organized plan. With such a diverse geography, the planning teams needed to consider the input and strategies as they relate to three distinct regions: West, Southeast, and Northeast Jefferson County. Each area has its own set of unique needs, threats, characteristics, and opportunities that demand different conservation approaches. *West Jefferson County* is defined as everything in Jefferson County west of Olympic National Park. *Southeast Jefferson County* and *Northeast Jefferson County* are roughly demarcated by Highway 104. *Southeast Jefferson County* lies east of Olympic National Forest, south to the county line, and north to include the Andrews, Tarboo, and Thorndyke creek watersheds. *Northeast Jefferson County* comprises everything from Port Townsend south to include the Snow, Salmon, Chimacum, and Ludlow creek watersheds.

Four conservation themes surfaced from early input: *Habitat, Forestry, Agriculture, and Recreation and Tourism*. During community meetings participants were asked to consider each of these themes and to imagine what they would wish for Jefferson County in 100 years. Looking forward an entire century is an exercise in altruism - a challenge to think beyond self interests, and explicitly consider the landscape and resources that will sustain future generations of residents and visitors. The responses to these forward-thinking questions were then synthesized into a guiding vision statement for each conservation theme.

³ A non-profit membership organization supporting land trusts throughout the nation.

These *Visions* are targets for Jefferson Land Trust and the community to aim for; they are goals to work towards; and they portray the kind of extraordinary place future generations deserve.

The potential to reach these *Visions* will be influenced by several factors. Knowing the threats and opportunities that currently exist, as well as those that can be anticipated, is critical to developing appropriate actions. The community inventory of those factors is reflected in the *Driving Forces* portion of each chapter. Patterns within the community feedback emerged and much of the most relevant input falls into four main categories: *Growth, Public Awareness, Markets and Policy, and Climate Change*.

Conservation Actions outlined in this plan are approaches chosen for achieving the *Visions*. In order to develop the *Conservation Actions* for each theme, the planning team analyzed community input in the context of Jefferson Land Trust’s history and mission as well as several other published conservation assessments. The *Conservation Actions* also fit within four overarching categories, which correlate directly with the driving forces: *Sustainable Development, Public Support, Incentives and Local Economy, and Ecology and Adaptation*. With these *Conservation Actions* Jefferson Land Trust is strengthening existing programs and partnerships and establishing new ones; they provide the framework on which to build when responding to new opportunities, knowledge and initiatives.

Driving Forces	Conservation Actions
Growth and Conversion	Sustainable Development
Public Awareness	Public Support
Markets and Policy	Incentives and Local Economy
Climate Change	Ecology and Adaptation

The planning team also used information from the community meetings to produce maps that provide guidance for implementing the *Conservation Actions* in each chapter. See the *Data Sources* section of each map for descriptions and explanations. These maps have been produced strictly as guides and planning tools and are intended to be updated and improved over time as necessary.

In the years ahead, the information incorporated in this plan will guide the combined efforts of the Land Trust, its partners and the community toward a future that balances healthy communities with productive working lands and functional ecosystems.

photo below: Scott Pascoe



Achieving the Visions

Implementing this plan will require immense initiative and bold commitment. Our community is passionate about what it wants for the future. Our task now is to bring together the right people, agencies, organizations, and financing strategies so that our vision can be achieved – so we have clean air and water, productive lands, abundant wildlife, and scenic vistas for generations. New methods will have to be created, old methods will have to be used in innovative ways, and new partnerships must be established.

The *Visions*, *Priority Places*, and *Conservation Actions* of this conservation plan are not mutually exclusive – they are meant, rather, to compliment each other. Indeed the strategy for implementing one *Conservation Action* must consider all others in order to achieve the kind of conservation the community desires. Each of the *Conservation Actions* will also require their own implementation strategies, metrics, and partnerships.

There will always be limited funding, energy, capacity and other resources available to support

conservation efforts. The *Visions* and *Conservation Actions* in this plan acknowledge these limitations and aim to overcome them through collaboration, partnership, and leadership. This extraordinary place – Jefferson County – demands extraordinary effort from all of us to achieve our goals. Measurable success of this plan will come in the form of not only acres protected, but also in partnerships forged, momentum gained, and community members involved.

The adaptability of this plan is central to its success; regular review of the effort and achievement during implementation will be integral to keeping up with the changing needs of our community and our landscape. No firm evaluation schedule has been proposed in this initial version, although improvements to the plan are expected to provide the basis for updates at least every five years. The two years following adoption will determine to what extent this plan is incorporated into the Olympic Agenda. These first years will also provide insight into how it is best used as a practical tool.





Stephen Cunitz

Stephen Cunitz



Direct Land Conservation Tools

One traditional method, or conservation tool, is the full ownership (fee-simple) of a property. Ownership of a property by Jefferson Land Trust or other public interest organization or agency can be one of the most effective ways to ensure land is managed in a way that conserves its most important values for future generations. Fee-simple ownership of land provides the greatest level of control over the use and condition of a property, yet it comes with its own set of challenges.

Another conservation tool that is commonly used is establishing voluntary conservation agreements between landowners and Jefferson Land Trust. These voluntary conservation agreements, called conservation easements, ensure the permanent protection of private land for its open space, productive or habitat values. Conservation easements are recorded on the title of the property, and the land trust ensures the terms of the easement are honored in perpetuity. Under these agreements, the land remains privately owned and managed just like any other property, but specific terms and conditions of the easement help direct the uses of the land in a way that preserves the owner's intentions and important conservation values that are present on the property: the productive soils are protected from erosion and degradation, the scenic qualities and important natural features remain undeveloped, the valuable wildlife habitat is maintained or improved, etc. Conservation easements will continue to be a primary tool in the implementation of this Conservation Plan.

Other tools used less often include long-term lease arrangements, long-term option agreements, private deed restrictions, private contracts and other license agreements, conservation limited developments, transfer of development rights, and many others.

LEGEND

Residential Development Potential

- on Land Zoned for Forestry
- on Land Zoned for Agriculture
- on Other Rural Zones

Each point represents an individual dwelling unit approximately 5 acres in size

Existing Community Footprint

- Urban Growth Area
- Existing Rural Residence
Each point represents an individual dwelling unit approximately 5 acres in size

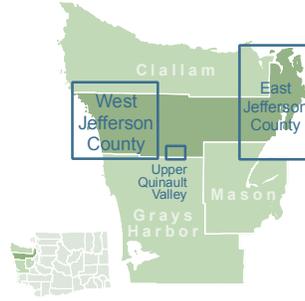
Rural and Resource Zones

- Forest Zone
- Agriculture Zone
- Other Rural Zones
- Public, Protected or Tribal Land

ABOUT THIS MAP

This map displays an estimate of the number and location of both existing and potential new residential dwellings throughout rural Jefferson County. Each dwelling is portrayed as a square approximately five acres in size at the scale of the map, and is shown in relation to Urban Growth Areas, public, protected or tribal lands and forestry, agricultural and other rural zoning designations. Estimates of potential dwellings were calculated using a spatially-explicit analysis that considered current parcel size and configuration, ownership, land use, zoning and development regulations.

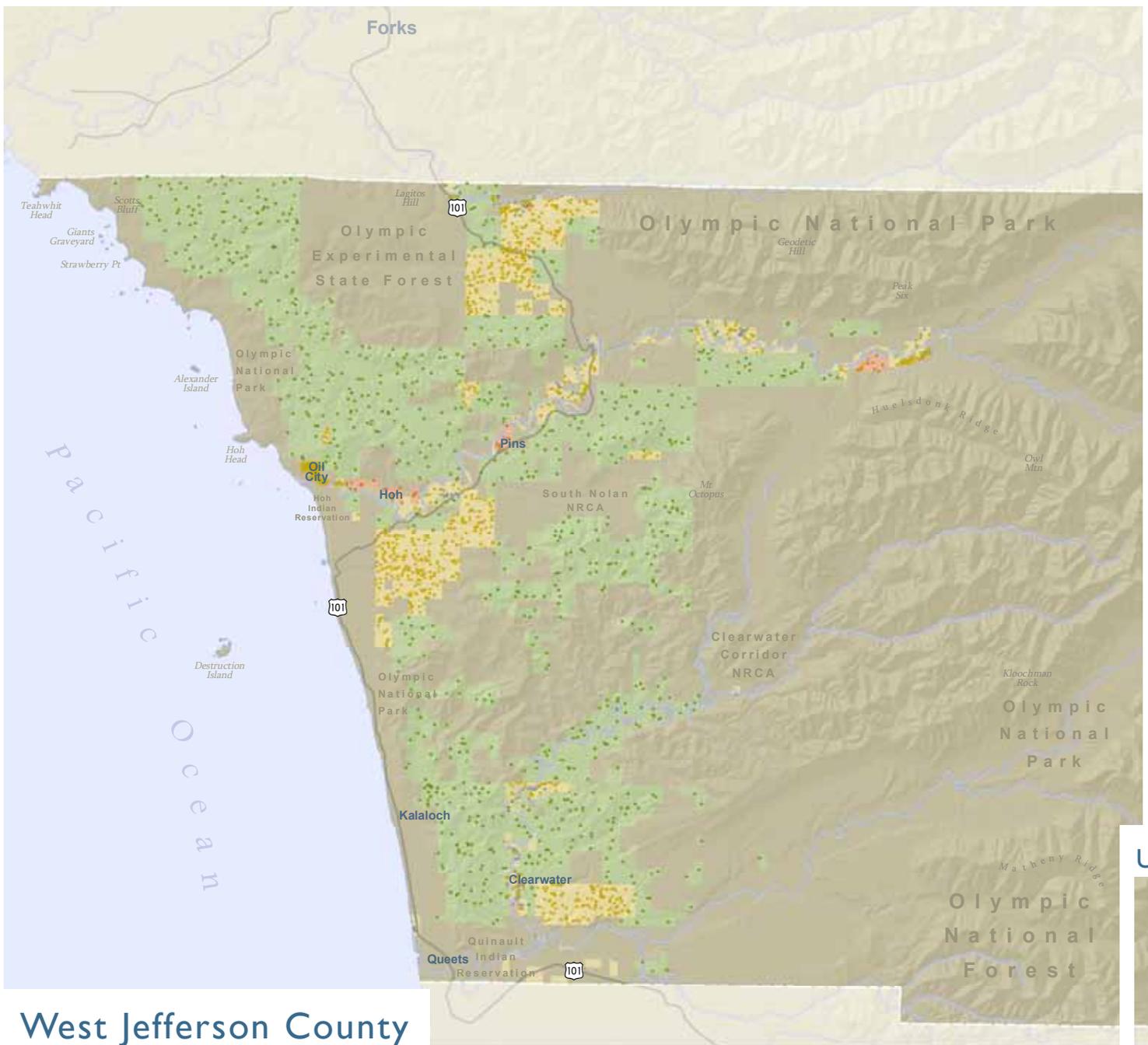
Allowed residential densities range widely across the county, from 80-acre lots on Designated Forest Lands west of The Olympics to high-density mixed-use zones in eastern rural population centers such as Brinnon, Port Ludlow and Quilcene.



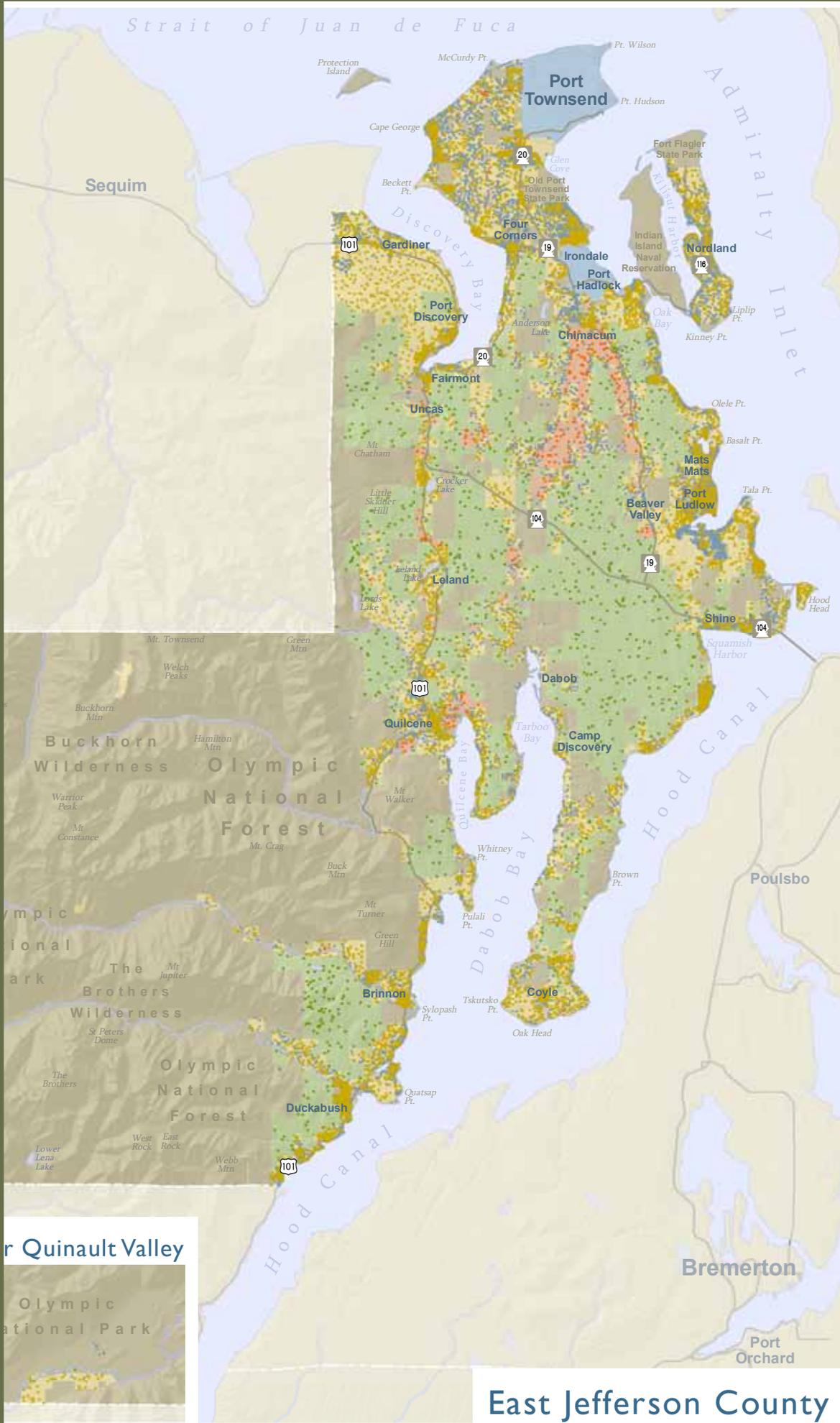
Map and analysis produced for The Olympic Agenda by Cascade Land Conservancy in partnership with Jefferson Land Trust



Map created in April 2010. Ground condition of map information varies throughout 2008.



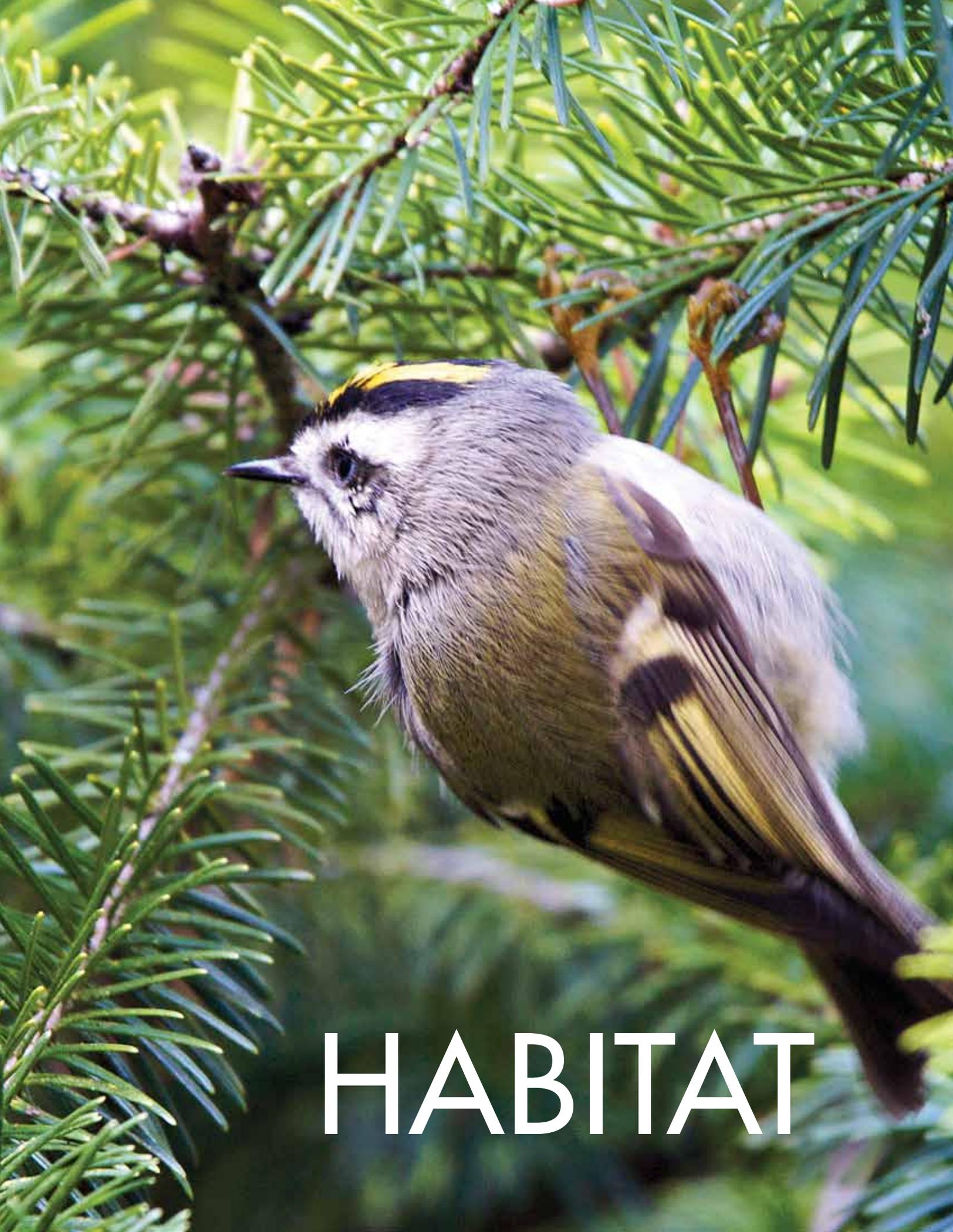
West Jefferson County



The Olympic Agenda

Jefferson County Rural Residential Development Potential

East Jefferson County



HABITAT

VISION

Habitat is biologically diverse, interconnected, and supports viable populations of keystone species.

In Perspective

Habitat has long been a central focus of Jefferson Land Trust conservation efforts. The wildness of the county is a defining characteristic that is enjoyed and appreciated by all of us. We stand at the edge of wetlands and watch the busy birds, the quiet newts and families of waterfowl; we walk along the streams cascading out of the hills and into the bays, with determined salmon splashing their way upstream; we crouch and inspect the colorful crabs, mussel beds and sea stars on the shoreline; we discover signs of wildlife as we hike through forest trails. We live with wildlife all around us, and we want to keep it that way.

Habitat conservation throughout the county has historically been highly focused on the streams, riparian forests, and shoreline that have the greatest impact on the health and recovery of native salmon populations. Much has been done, but there is still a lot to do. These efforts have initiated work to protect riparian and wetland corridors that help link the estuarine and shoreline areas with inland forested habitats, providing

a variety of wildlife passage upstream and downstream. Most of these existing conservation properties are scattered outside dense human populations, and many are surrounded by working landscapes. Others take place in and near the urban growth areas, like the Quimper Wildlife Corridor and the Lower Chimacum Creek conservation area.

Habitat conservation is not just for the wildlife. Countless studies, and our own personal experiences, tell us that a landscape rich in wildlife habitat brings many benefits. Among them are the ecosystem services these landscapes provide, like cleaning our air and water, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, providing naturally scenic vistas, etc. Habitat conservation can take many forms and may complement other values and uses of the property.

In order to foster wildlife in this landscape for generations, and enjoy the multiple benefits, there simply needs to be an adequate amount of quality habitat and linkages between core habitat areas.

Unique Characteristics and Assets

The habitat diversity of the county is astonishing. A hike from the west end of the county to the east would take you from Pacific Coast shoreline and forests, through temperate rain forest valleys and up wild river canyons, to the sub-alpine meadows and craggy summits of the Olympic Mountains, then down through dense forested eastern slopes and cascading rivers, to coastal wetlands and the inland sea.

WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY

The western three-fourths of the Olympic Peninsula is part of the coastal temperate rain forest zone, receiving an average of 90 to over 150 inches of rain annually. Temperate rain forests are a rare ecosystem type, originally constituting 0.02% of the earth's total land area. The majority of the primeval lowland temperate rain forests in West Jefferson County have been harvested and the land is currently under cultivation for commercial timber production, offering variable habitat values and qualities. A portion of the original lowland temperate rain forests of the Olympic Peninsula is federally protected for habitat and low-impact public use in the boundaries of the Olympic National Park. With the exception of the Hoh Reservation and a small corner of the Quinalt Reservation near Queets, the entire 30-mile-long and one-mile-wide coastal belt of Jefferson County is also within public ownership by the Olympic National Park and managed primarily for habitat. The Washington Department of Natural Resources is also a major landowner in West Jefferson County, managing most of their lands exclusively for timber production and revenue for funding public institutions, such as schools. Other Washington Department of Natural Resources lands are maintained for wildlife habitat, particularly those in or near riparian or wetland areas, or for the purpose

of forestry research. Most of the private land in West Jefferson County is held by commercial timber companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts. State regulations influence management of these timberlands, providing basic levels of habitat protection. The largest private non-commercial timber landowner in West Jefferson County is the Hoh River Trust, with nearly 7,000 acres along the Hoh River corridor managed for habitat conservation and restoration. The rivers of West Jefferson County, including the Hoh, are relatively undeveloped and still maintain a wild character. All waterways in West Jefferson County have experienced some adverse effects from timber harvest practices, bank stabilization, road building, sedimentation, and removal of large woody debris. Yet the four West Olympic Peninsula rivers remain high quality salmon habitat, and have been identified as Pacific salmon habitat strongholds.¹



left: Scott Pascoe, right: Stephen Cunliffe

SOUTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

The bulk of the land base in Southeast Jefferson County is managed as private and public forestland, providing large blocks of habitat uninterrupted by development. Closer to the shoreline and transportation corridors, the land base is mixed with rural residential development and rural community centers, such as the towns of Brinnon and Quilcene. Rainfall averages between 40 inches near Highway 104, and 90 inches in the Dosewallips and Duckabush river valleys. Rivers flowing from the Olympics mix with Hood Canal brackish waters to provide ideal temperature and water conditions that support some of the largest shellfish hatcheries in the world. Rivers and streams flowing into Hood Canal are critical to the protection and survival of the federally listed local summer chum, and bull trout. Many salmonid species spend a large part of their early lives in the estuaries, and water quality conditions in Hood Canal are essential to their continued survival. Representing some of the most intact and functioning marine bay habitat in the Puget Sound area, Dabob Bay has recently achieved protection status by the state as the Dabob Bay Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resource Conservation Area.

NORTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

Northeast Jefferson County experiences far less rainfall than the other two areas and has a landscape further removed from the steep slopes and rushing rivers of the Olympic Mountains. Rainfall averages between 35 inches a year near Port Ludlow and 19 inches a year in Port Townsend. The land is dominated by lowland forests and agricultural valleys. Historically there were also native prairie landscapes and oak woodlands mixed with dry conifer forests. Other unique habitat assets include the prolific Discovery Bay, the Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge, and peninsular geography that increases the maritime influence on the habitat. Northeast Jefferson County watersheds are spring fed with lowland headwater lake and wetland complexes. Due to low precipitation these small creek systems are more prone to cyclical low stream flows in the summer and early fall than other watersheds in the county. Creeks such as Salmon, Snow and Chimacum support Endangered Species Act listed summer run chum populations while their estuaries provide rearing and migratory habitat for other salmon populations and wildlife.

¹ The internationally focused Wild Salmon Center has identified the Quinault, Queets, Hoh and Bogachiel rivers as Pacific salmon habitat strongholds. There are only twenty-six of these strongholds across the entire North Pacific and these four rivers produce more than half of Washington's sockeye and steelhead, and 40 percent of Washington's chinook salmon.

Achieving the Vision

PRIORITY PLACES

- Rivers, Streams and Lakes
- Wildlife Corridors
- Natural Ecosystems
- Bays, Shorelines and Estuaries

Growth

DRIVING FORCES:

CONVERSION

The community cited the conversion of habitat areas, driven by projected human population growth and development, as a driving force posing the gravest threat to habitat quality. Community members identified the increase of impervious surfaces, and habitat fragmentation resulting from urban and rural sprawl as potential results of future development. The community was clear in calling for good planning and appropriate management of development and growth patterns to avoid and minimize negative impacts to wildlife habitat.

OUR APPROACH:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In order to counter the destructive effects that could occur from the projected levels of growth, the community suggested Jefferson Land Trust help direct development in a way that minimizes impacts to important habitat areas.

Most of the projected growth is expected to be concentrated in the Northeastern portion of the county, in the Port Townsend – Tri-Area

(Port Hadlock, Chimacum, Irondale) – Port Ludlow corridor. Brinnon and Quilcene are also projected to grow.

Improving the quality of life within the population centers will help attract growth to the areas planning for it. Increasing development demand in the population centers will decrease demand for development outside the population centers.

GROWTH CONSERVATION ACTION

SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE SPRAWLING DEVELOPMENT



photo above left: Lowell Jans

What We Heard

“[Encourage development plans for] rural villages that can allow for more clustered development in certain designated areas”

“Encourage infill in developed areas (rather than sprawl)”

“[Encourage satisfying] human habitat development”

“[Encourage] well planned, clustered development”



What We Heard

“Educate the community about...indigenous floral and faunal resources, so that especially young people become aware of what we have and become invested in not losing those resources”

“Education and opportunities for urbanites to spend time on the land gaining an appreciation of the delicate web of life necessary to participate in a healthy ecosystem”

“Support...educational conservation-oriented programs in the schools and community”

What We Heard

“Encourage and support profitable working lands so that other development does not [encroach]”

“Work with working lands owners to help them use their lands in a financially viable way – helping them...increase the market for their products”

“[Promote] incentives for landowners to manage land in concert with wildlife needs”

“[Promote] thoughtful management of agricultural and timber land to include consideration of habitat values...”

“[Support] effectively integrating incentives, regulations, education/outreach and voluntary stewardship”

Public Awareness

DRIVING FORCES:

Public awareness is essential to the long-term success of habitat protection. There is a distinct association between a community that understands the benefits of maintaining quality wildlife habitat and the overall effectiveness of protection. Considering the projected growth of the population, and a tenuous economic future, wildlife habitat will come under increasing pressure to provide more resources in the next century. In other parts of the world, areas providing quality wildlife habitat are often the first to be impacted as resource demands increase. Public awareness can counter these inevitable pressures by ensuring habitat protection remains central in local values and decision making.

OUR APPROACH:

PUBLIC SUPPORT

The only way to create conservation measures that last in perpetuity is to have broad local support. While everyone experiences the benefits of habitat conservation indirectly, sharing the benefits of habitat conservation through direct experience can increase appreciation and understanding of this element of the community vision.

The community recommends that Jefferson Land Trust develop public education programs focused on the importance of wildlife

habitat. Programs could also identify the consequences of not taking actions to protect or restore wildlife habitat. The community stressed the importance of including youth in local habitat conservation projects and increasing the overall awareness and participation by all sectors and ages of the community. Engaging people actively in the habitat conservation goals and benefits could result in several outcomes beneficial to the long term momentum of this community vision.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CONSERVATION ACTION

INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND CONNECT THEM DIRECTLY WITH WILDLIFE HABITAT

Markets and Policy

DRIVING FORCES:

Successful habitat protection requires leadership, effective partnerships, and a compatible legal framework. The community shared the sentiment that without a coordinated approach there simply will not be enough habitat protection measures in place to keep pace with the projected levels of growth; no one organization, project, or policy will achieve the vision alone. This coordinated approach is going to require using many different tools that promote private involvement and public investment. It is going to require bold leadership.

OUR APPROACH:

INCENTIVES AND LOCAL ECONOMY

Private land throughout the rural and urban areas can provide important habitat values to native wildlife, particularly the large

working lands. The long-term conservation of a working landscape in Jefferson County is critical to the habitat protection vision of



photos left: Stephen Cunliff; center: Scott Pascoe; right: Guy Scharf

the community. We want to keep the working landscape working and ensure that wildlife habitat is part of the land mosaic.

The community recommended that Jefferson Land Trust promote market-based incentives and value-added production as a way

to help the producers operate profitably and sustainably while maintaining viable wildlife habitat. Tools like these can also help ensure that owners of working lands can afford to resist pressures to convert productive land for development.

MARKETS & POLICY CONSERVATION ACTION

IDENTIFY ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES TO HABITAT PROTECTION AND PROMOTE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR INCORPORATING WILDLIFE HABITAT INTO MANAGEMENT OF WORKING LANDS

Climate Change

DRIVING FORCES:

Participants cited climate change as an important driving force. Globally, scientists consider this the greatest driving force affecting habitat. Receding glaciers, reduced snowpack, lower summer water flows, shifting precipitation patterns, increase in invasive species, rising sea levels, and changing shoreline dynamics are all acute predicted changes that will have a dramatic impact on the current distribution, quality and diversity of species and habitat types. Species across the county are going to be stressed into adjusting to the rapid rate of change that is currently occurring. Habitats will change, and the ability of species to maintain their viability will depend largely on the availability of resources, as well as the availability of corridors allowing movement to suitable conditions as they attempt to adjust to a warmer Olympic Peninsula.

OUR APPROACH:

ECOLOGY AND ADAPTATION

The natural interconnections between species and habitats are the strands in the web of life that sustains all communities. Interrupting these interconnections through habitat fragmentation is a common result of increased human population growth and associated development. Recognizing this, the community suggested focusing conservation efforts on landscape level protection efforts that encourage connectivity between a diversity of habitats.

The latest research on conservation planning and climate change also suggests working at a landscape level to afford the greatest level of species movements and adaptability in a changing climate. Specifically, research suggests that habitat conservation planning should focus on protecting adequate and appropriate space and corridors for wildlife, limiting non-climate stressors like habitat fragmentation and invasive species, and using active adaptive management.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSERVATION ACTION

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CRITICAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION CAMPAIGNS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

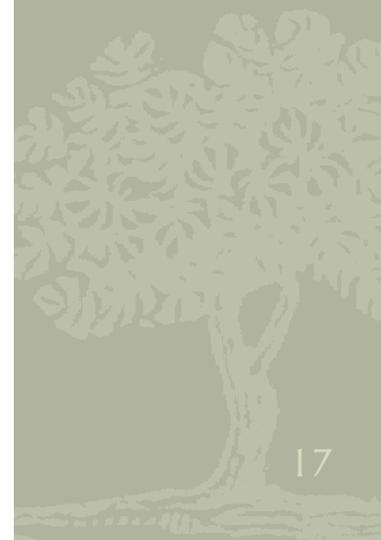
What We Heard

“Reduce fragmentation of the landscape”

“Integrate aquatic corridor and watershed scale conservation tactics”

“Encourage corridor protection regimes”

“[Protect] large patches with connectivity to other habitats (e.g. riparian/floodplain connectivity with uplands)”





Habitat Conservation Planning

East and West Jefferson County, Washington

Analysis and Cartography by S. DeLorey April 2010

For informational and strategic planning use only.

This is a tool for identifying possible sites for voluntary conservation efforts.

All boundaries are approximate.

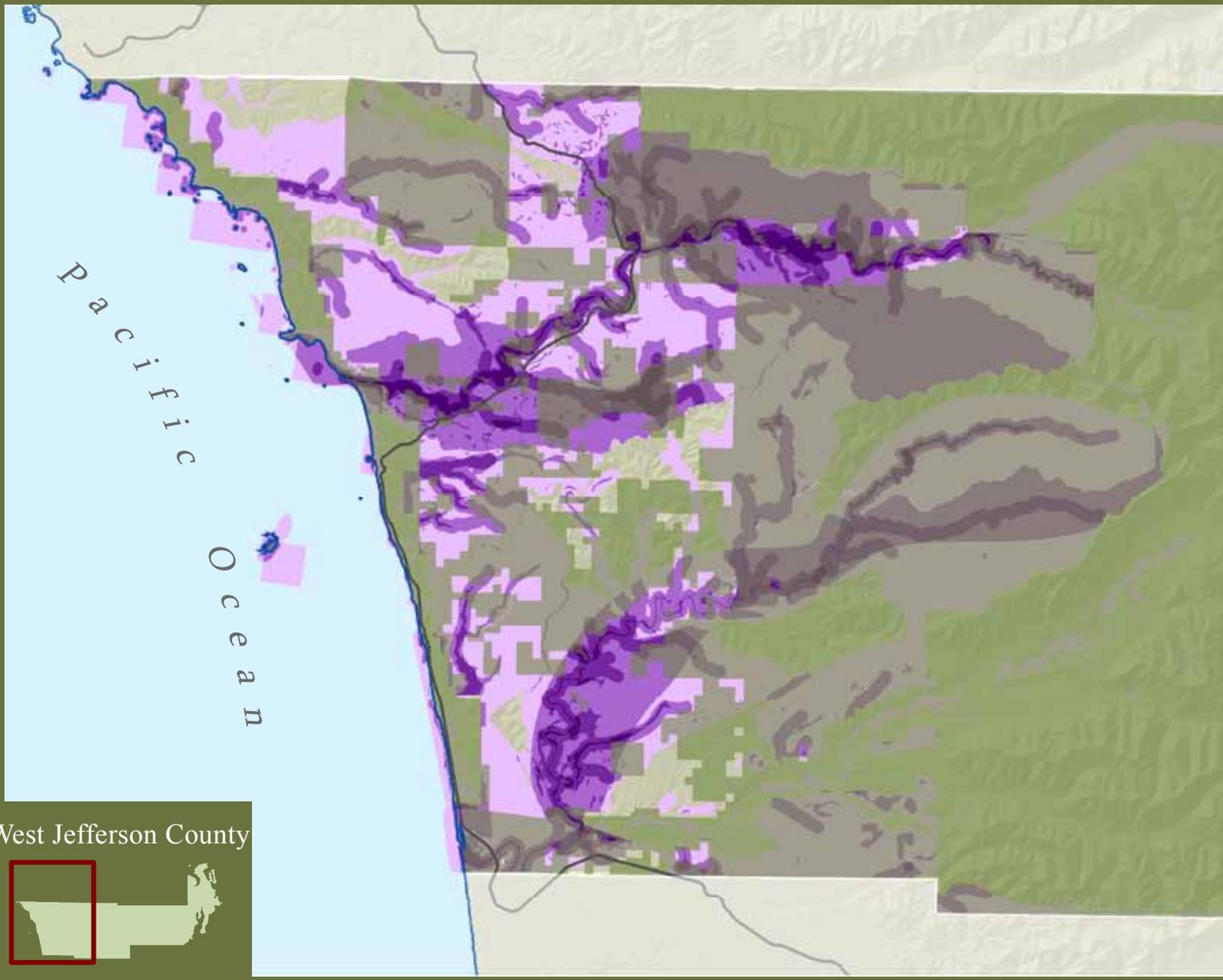
- Habitat Conservation Overlay**
- 1 Priority Habitat Indicator Layer
 - 2 Priority Habitat Indicator Layers
 - 3 Priority Habitat Indicator Layers
 - 4 Priority Habitat Indicator Layers
- Map Legend**
- Protected Land
 - County Boundary
 - Highway
 - Salt Water

Data Sources

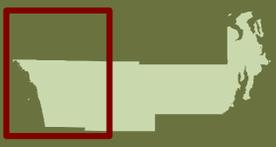
The Habitat Conservation Overlay displays four habitat indicator layers. A purple gradient is used to show overlap; the darker the purple, the greater the number of indicator layers are present at that location.

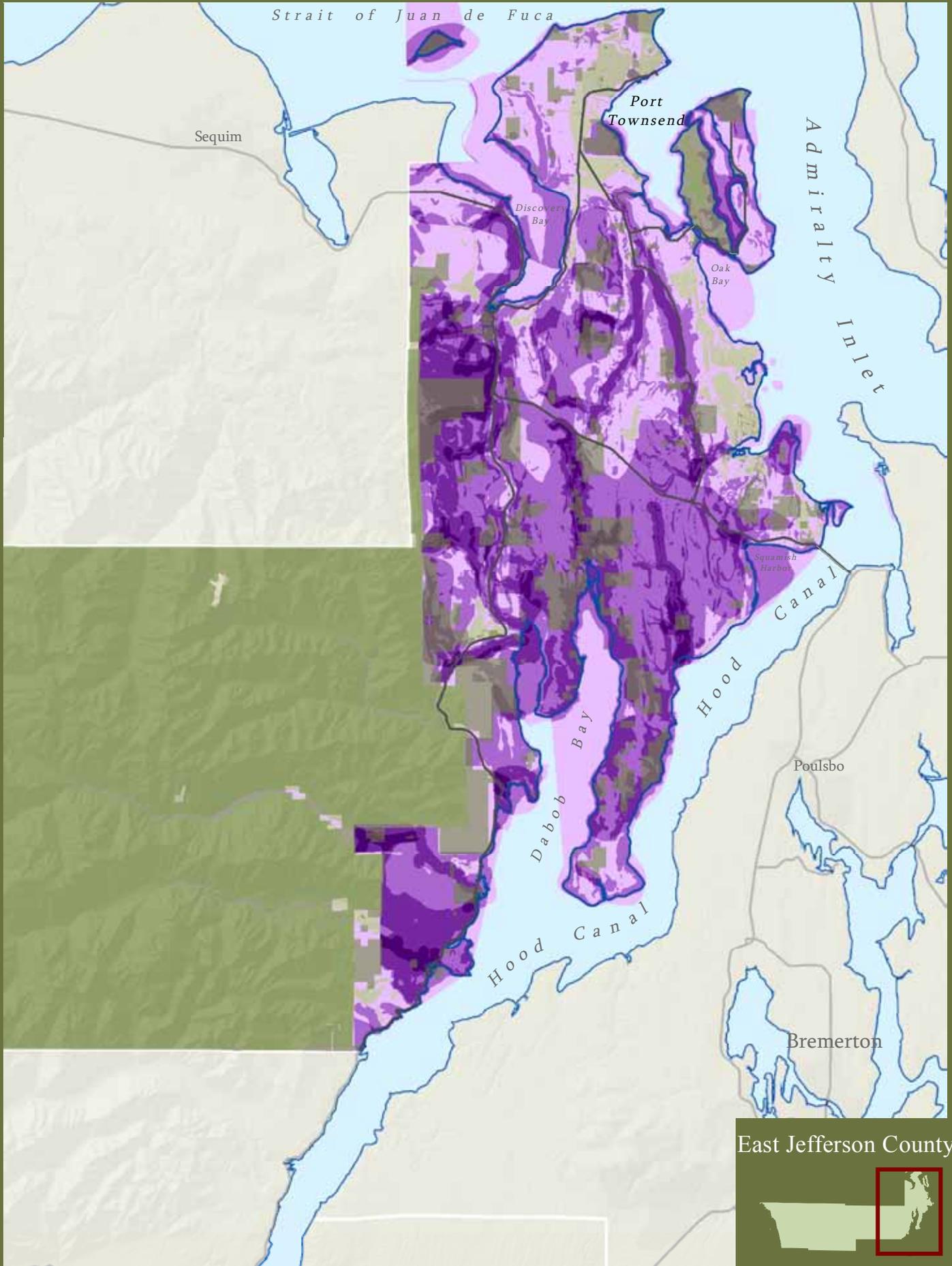
- The habitat indicator layers are:
- Community Identified Priority Areas with Habitat Conservation Values collected at 2008 conservation planning meetings.
 - The Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Assessment portfolio data (2003, 2005) derived from PNW Salmon Distribution data created by StreamNet (2005).
 - Land within 1,000 ft of rivers and streams with salmon presence, derived from PNW Salmon Distribution data created by StreamNet (2005).
 - Sensitive Areas Composite, derived from data that indicate areas potentially sensitive to development activities including: Bald eagle point observations derived from the WDFW Wildlife Heritage Database (2007); land within 150ft of marine and estuarine shorelines, derived from Jefferson County (2007); wetlands and soils susceptible to erosion, seismic activity and landslides, derived from Jefferson County (2007).

Protected Land data are derived from the Protected Lands Database created from a variety of sources by Cascade Land Conservancy (2008).



West Jefferson County





Habitat Conservation Planning Map



FORESTRY

VISION

Large tracts of working forests are permanently protected for stable and sustainable production, wildlife habitat, scenic viewsheds, ecosystem services and recreational uses.

In Perspective

The evergreen forests of the Olympic Peninsula have captured the hearts and imaginations of residents and visitors for generations. They are what brought many of us here in one way or another –our ancestors first came here to work in the forests or mills; we are drawn here by the allure of the towering evergreen trees; and we continue to work and play among the forested surroundings. They are the defining landscape characteristic; they are a foundation of our economy; and they are an integral part of our ecosystems.

Covered in a carpet of deep green, our rural landscape is dominated by working forests, managed at least in part for the production of timber. No matter where you are in Jefferson County, you are near a working forest. The extensive evergreen landscape is made up of small family forests, private industrial forests, state forests, tribal forests and federal forests. When managed well, they help produce the clean water we drink, the clean air we breathe, the wildlife we watch, and the lumber we use.

Today, owners and managers of forests have limited incentives to manage their forests in a way that combines productivity with improving habitat quality and other ecosystem services. They also have more pressures than ever to convert their properties to other uses. As residential development increases in Jefferson County, and more development occurs outside of

the towns, pressure to convert working forests to other uses grows. The underlying market value of the forest land increases as it becomes more accessible and attractive for residential development, which combines with other market and regulatory forces to motivate forest landowners to sell. This trend has resulted in the conversion of productive forests to residential development throughout the county. In Washington, over 200,000 acres of forests were lost to development between 1978 and 2001.¹ Another recent study calculated that 11.5% of Jefferson County forest lands are highly threatened with conversion to other uses, representing over 22,000 acres.² This same study calculates that more than 34,000 acres of private timber land in North-east and Southeast Jefferson County are not currently enrolled in Washington's Designated Forest Land Tax Program, and that 90% of these forests are at high risk for conversion.

The Olympic Peninsula is a great place to grow trees and the private working forest landscape is a cornerstone of our local economy, landscape, and culture. Those working forests that present the best opportunity for sustainable production over time, and that provide the most public benefits, can be managed to have a long future – a future of providing jobs, resources, and environmental benefits, if we let them.

Unique Characteristics and Assets

The Pacific Northwest coastal temperate rainforests produce more biomass per acre per year than any other ecosystem in the world. Such a productive resource is an incredible gift for sustaining our human and wildlife communities. Approximately 60% of the county is managed as Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest, while another approximately 15% is forestry land largely protected from conversion because it is managed as Washington State Department of Natural Resources trust lands. Approximately half of the remaining land base is made up of private working forests (about 200,000 acres). Most of this private forest land is owned by Timber Investment Management Organizations and Real Estate Investment Trusts.³

¹ WA Dept. Natural Resources, April 2007. *Future of Washington's Forests*. <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications>

² UW College of Forest Resources, March 2009. *Retention of High-Valued Forest Lands at Risk of Conversion to Non-Forest Uses in Washington State*. <http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org/retention.html>

³ Wilent, Steve. "Investors Increase Timberland Holdings." *The Forestry Source*. December, 2004.

WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY

West Jefferson County is legendary for its trees. Since the first days of settlement in the mid-19th century, the giant trees in West Jefferson County have been harvested for timber products. With anywhere from 90 to over 200 inches of precipitation annually, the wettest places in the lower 48 are found here, as well as some of the largest trees. The primary land use of private land in West Jefferson County is for tree farms – approximately 90% is classified as timber production land. These vast areas of private timber land are in their second, third, or even fourth rotation and utilize some of the most sophisticated and experimental forestry tools available to maximize production.

SOUTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

Southeast Jefferson County private land is also dominated by working forests. However, with a higher population, there has been a greater level of alteration of the landscape associated with development. The private working forests in Southeast Jefferson County are situated in the lower elevations east of the Olympic National Forest boundary. Exceptional natural conditions for growing trees, such as mild temperatures, good soils, and relatively high precipitation levels, make the private working forests in Southeast Jefferson County some of our most productive.

NORTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

The forest lands in Northeast Jefferson County compose the scenic surroundings for the largest population centers in the county. Smaller working forest parcels and ownership blocks are interspersed with rural residential development and main transportation corridors. Much of the originally forested landscape has been converted to other uses in Northeast Jefferson County, yet it still maintains a dominant role in the landscape. Large contiguous forest land ownerships held by timber companies encompass the largest unfragmented blocks of land in this part of the peninsula. This area also has the highest number of small forest land owners who live on or near their working forest property.





Achieving the Vision

PRIORITY PLACES

- Land with high site productivity
- Recreation and scenic view lands
- Buffers to habitat preserves
- Large management units
- Buffers to public timberlands

Growth

DRIVING FORCES:

CONVERSION

The community recognized the conversion of working forests as the principal threat to a sustainable forestry economy in the county. As illustrated in the Residential Buildout Map (page 10-11), much of the working forest landscape could be impacted by rural sprawl-type development. Beyond simply taking the available forest land base out of production, conversion of forest lands can increase the fragmentation of working forest. Cumulative impacts from fragmentation can make isolated forest land more costly to manage, predisposing the land to be sold for conversion to more residential and commercial development. Support infrastructure such as mills and log yards are also impacted as less land is being managed for production.

OUR APPROACH:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Maintaining a working forest landscape around growing population centers can be a difficult proposition considering all the driving forces. These population centers threaten the ability to maintain working forests on the urban and sub-urban fringe, yet examples from across the world emphasize the role forests can play in countering sprawl. The community proposed that Jefferson Land Trust work to integrate com-

munity development with forestry through the mechanism of community forestry.

Working forests, still unfragmented by extensive development, can be found within 5 miles of our population centers and main transportation corridors. Through community forestry, these forests present the greatest opportunity to connect a growing population with all the benefits of local working forests.

GROWTH CONSERVATION ACTION

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CAMPAIGNS FOCUSED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT COMMUNITY FORESTS LOCATED NEAR RESIDENTIAL AREAS

What We Heard

“[Utilize] creative methods [to facilitate the] purchase of large parcels for community forestry”

“[Support development of] mixed-use forests – opening up forested areas to low-impact recreational uses”

“[Establish and protect] forest lands that are owned locally, where harvest revenue stays local”

Community Forestry

is a model of working forest management where a community has ownership of and access to a clearly defined forested area, participates in decisions concerning the forest, and directly benefits from the sociological, economic, and ecological services it provides.

What We Heard

“Promote the benefits of working forests”

“Celebrate appropriate management of forestry lands, and celebrate contribution to local economy”

“Develop coordinated messages and education strategy for working forestlands on the Olympic Peninsula”

What We Heard

“Develop economic incentives (local processing, value added, FSC certification)”

“[Support the establishment of] diverse mills, including FSC certified”

“[Support] increased use of eco-forestry methods as part of overall conservation strategies”

“Support forest products manufacturing facilities”

“Transfer/purchase development rights”

Public Awareness

DRIVING FORCES:

Impacts from earlier logging practices and other elements of the timber products industry have caused the severe degradation of important wildlife habitat. Restoration of this habitat is largely funded by public dollars. While timber production has been central to the local landscape for over a century, providing benefits such as jobs, lumber and infrastructure, public awareness of the forest products industry is largely associated with impacts to water quality and wildlife habitat. The encroachment of residential developments into working forest landscapes, combined with a negative public perception, often increases objections to harvest plans, which serves to further motivate forest landowners to sell for residential or commercial development.

OUR APPROACH:

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Forestry in the 21st century is going to be different than forestry in the 20th century. Forestry does not have to be damaging to habitat, water quality, and other community values. In fact, it cannot continue to be if it is going to be sustainably managed for future generations. For productive working forests to continue to provide ongoing benefits and resources there must be broad public support for the responsible and sustainable

management of working forests.

Through education and other outreach programs, the community suggested that Jefferson Land Trust can play a role in promoting greater local understanding of the benefits of working forest. Our working forest landscape is valuable and we all benefit by keeping working lands working in an environmentally and economically sound manner.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CONSERVATION ACTION

PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE WORKING FORESTS



above photo: Port Townsend Paper Company

Markets and Policy

DRIVING FORCES:

Fluctuating market conditions and changing policy have had enormous influences on both the conversion and retention of working forestlands in the past. The community acknowledges that they will clearly continue to be fundamental in determining if working forests can remain profitable and instrumental in how forest lands are managed. The commodity timber products grown in Jefferson County contend in a very competitive global marketplace. Affordable access to those markets is compromised by rising fuel costs and the loss of local sawmills over the past several decades. Emerging ecosystem markets, the certified forestry movement, and non-timber forest products markets are also recognized by the community as driving forces that will have a significant and growing impact on the future of Olympic Peninsula forestry.

OUR APPROACH:

INCENTIVES AND LOCAL ECONOMY

The influence of global and local markets can determine when it is more profitable to maintain a working forest or sell it for other uses. With land values higher than timber values, changing regulations, and encroaching development, incentives to prevent conversion of working forests will continue to be critical.

Some market incentives are based on the ecological services that the land provides. Each service has its own associated economic value that will increase as growth and development occurs. Examples of ecological services are soil productivity, water filtration and storage, wildlife habitat and biodiversity,

air filtration, and carbon sequestration.

Incentive tools include the purchase of development rights, financial compensation for ecological services, and improved infrastructure for manufacturing forest products. The community also highlighted the need to improve opportunities for creating and marketing value-added products, which can increase profitability, and consequently help prevent conversion. In particular, the community recommended the certification of forests that are sustainably managed for their habitat, social, and economic values.

MARKETS & POLICY CONSERVATION ACTION

SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF CERTIFIED FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY
LOCALLY AND UTILIZE OTHER MARKET INCENTIVES TO PROTECT
FOREST LANDS FROM CONVERSION

Climate Change

DRIVING FORCES:

Community concern about climate change affecting forestry in Jefferson County is supported by the latest predictions and models. Higher temperatures will directly affect tree growth, water needs, impacts of forest insects, and wildfire. Average annual precipitation is not currently projected to change significantly, but more winter precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow. Snowpack is expected to melt earlier in the spring, which may result in higher magnitude flooding events. These predicted higher summer temperatures, less snowpack and earlier spring snowmelts will increase the summer water deficit in Jefferson County, which predictably will increase the incidence and magnitude of fire in forests. The drought stress will also subject forests to increased likelihood of damage from insect infestation.

OUR APPROACH:

ECOLOGY AND ADAPTATION

Protecting our forested landscape from conversion will allow forests to perform some of the planet's most efficient carbon sequestration work.

Maintaining a landscape of sustainably managed forests will ensure the native plants and animal species that have existed here for millennia will have a foundation of undeveloped land for adapting to climate change and other challenges. Yet the ecological services such as clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat that our surrounding forests provide are made possible by their connectivity and scale. Future market conditions of the 21st century will also require a large enough base

of forests for the forest products industry to be able to adapt to both the predictable and unpredictable challenges and opportunities.

Investment organizations own the large privately owned forested blocks in our county. How they choose to manage those lands will have a tremendous influence on the future of forestry, and on the ability of the community to realize its vision. The nation's largest working forest land conservation agreements have been made with these types of forest land investment organizations, which provides a promising perspective for our own community's conservation efforts.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSERVATION ACTION

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT LANDSCAPE-SCALE FOREST
LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

What We Heard

“Protect large blocks of productive land now – time is of the essence”

“Focus on conservation strategies with large landowners”

“[Ensure there continues to be] large forest lands in close proximity to processing and markets”





Forestry Conservation Planning

East and West Jefferson County, Washington

Analysis and Cartography by
S. DeLorey
April 2010

For informational and strategic planning use only.

This is a tool for identifying possible sites for voluntary conservation efforts.

All boundaries are approximate.

Map Legend

Site Class - Quality

Private Forest Lands

Average tree growth potential in 50 years

- II - 137ft+
- III - 119-136ft
- IV - 97-118ft
- V - 76-96ft
- 6 - Red Alder
- 8 - Non/Marginal Commercial
- 9 - Water Body

Contiguous Forest Land Ownership

- Greater Than 100 Acres
- Less Than 100 Acres

Protected Land

Highway

Salt Water

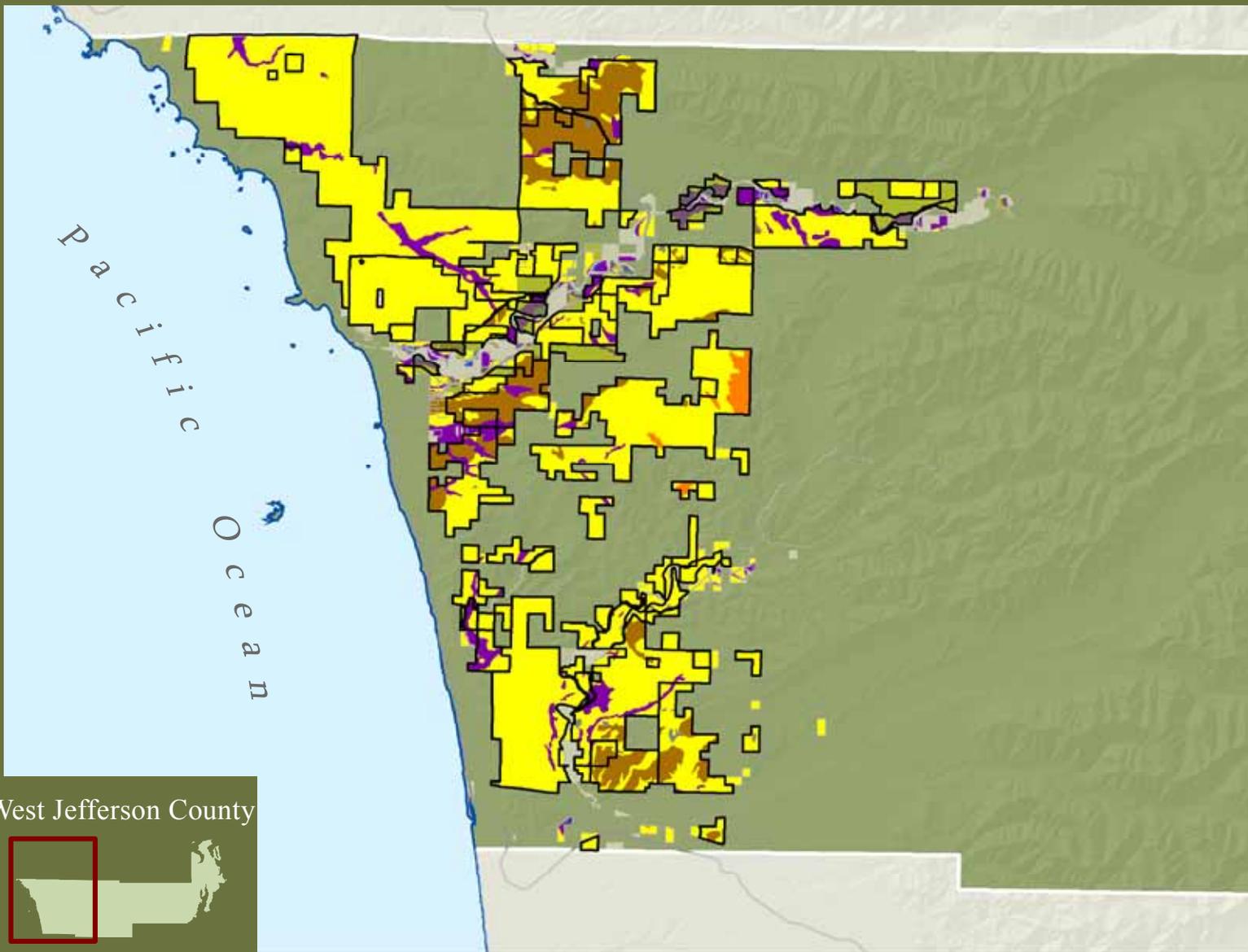
Data Sources

Site Class data was derived from WA Dept. of Natural Resources (2001) and clipped to extent of Private Forest Land. Private Forest Land data was derived from Jefferson County Assessors Office (2/2008), and represents all privately owned property enrolled as forest land in the county Current Use Taxation program.

Contiguous Forest Land Ownership was derived from Jefferson County GIS (2009).

Protected Land data was provided by Cascade Land Conservancy (2008), and includes protected working forest land.

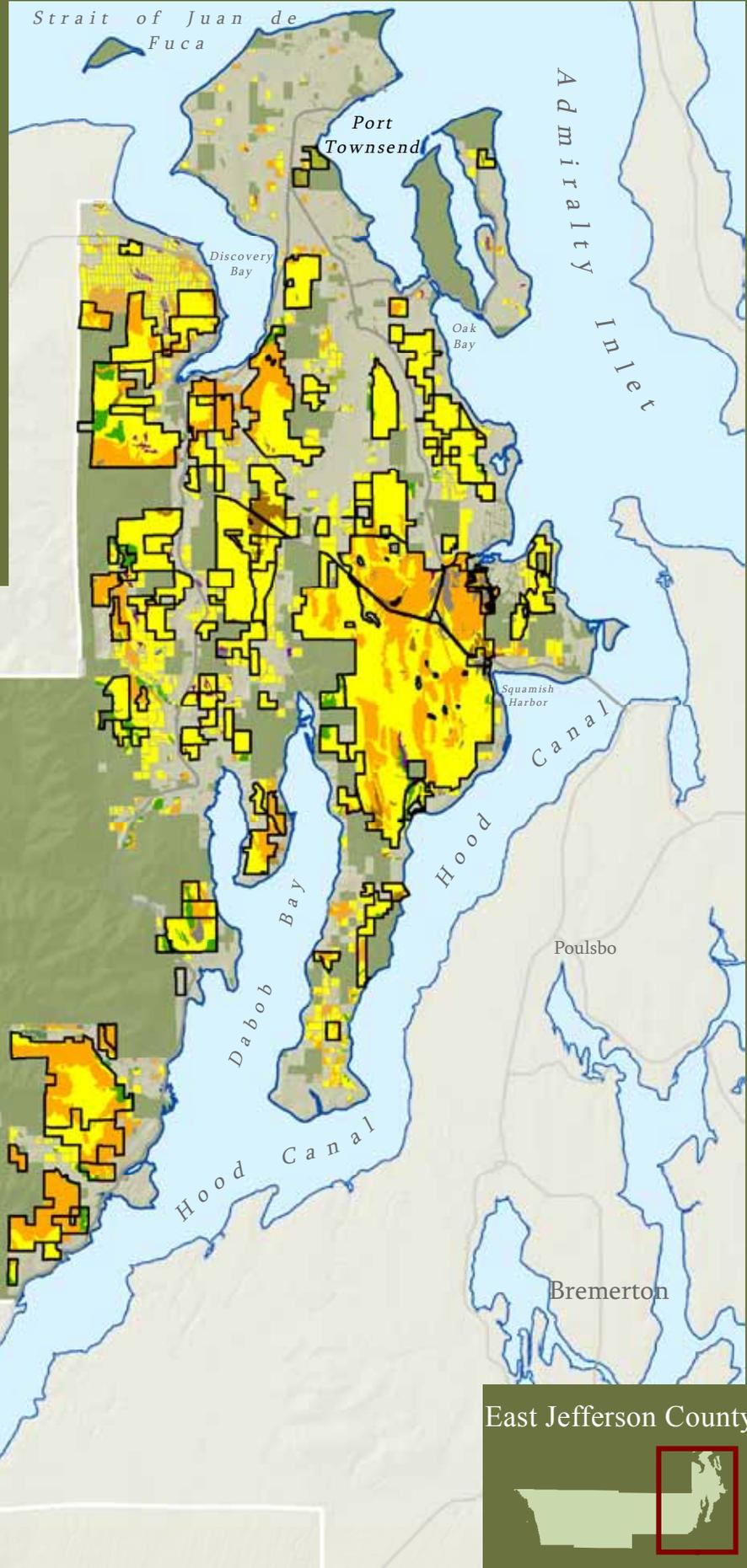
Community Identified Specific Priority Areas was derived from data collected at 2008 conservation planning meetings.



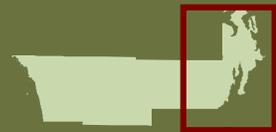
West Jefferson County

Community Identified Specific Priority Areas

- Beaver/Center Valley Ridge
- Big Quilcene River area
- Bolton Peninsula
- Chimacum Creek (upper watershed)
- Dosewallips and Duckabush forests
- Glen Cove
- Hoh River area
- Hwy 104 Corridor
- Kalaloch Creek (west fork area)
- Lake Leland corridor
- Little Quilcene River area
- Miller Peninsula (south of Hwy 101)
- Mosquito Creek area
- Penny Creek area
- Snow and Salmon Creek area
- Tarboo Creek area
- Thorndyke Watershed
- Toandos Peninsula
- Twin Lakes area



East Jefferson County



AGRICULTURE



VISION

A thriving, sustainable agricultural industry is prominent in the local economy, culture, and landscape and is supported by greater demand for local food.

In Perspective

Agricultural land is one of our most valuable resources. The people living and working on farmland in Jefferson County have a legacy of maintaining and improving the agricultural potential of their property. This legacy has contributed to the economic development, pastoral views, superior products, and local culture that we rely on.

The quality and abundance of local farm products is an important part of the history of this region. As early as the 1850's the lowland valleys, deltas, and prairies of the county were being cleared to make way for agriculture. The rich soils were quickly put to work by settlers to produce food and fiber for the growing population. Chimacum Valley was found to be good for growing hops and dairy farming. Berries became a major commercial crop in Leland Valley, Chimacum Valley, Quilcene, Brinnon, Port Hadlock, Port Townsend, and Marrowstone Island. Canneries opened to accommodate all the berry production. Local green beans, beets, peas and spinach were added to the cannery operations. On Marrowstone Island, and at Discovery Bay, strawberry and turkey farms flourished. By 1907 Brinnon residents were taking livestock, eggs, and produce to Seattle markets. Small row crop farms, or "truck farms," were popular well into the 1920s, with some surviving until much later, selling their produce to businesses and individuals alike.

About 200 different farms are currently operating in the county.¹ Established cropland and pasture currently make up about 3% of all private land in the county, or about 7,000 acres.² For such a limited resource, agricultural land plays a profound role in our lives, and will become ever more important as our population grows and economies adapt to conditions in the future. This growing importance is amplified by the nationwide trend of agricultural land being lost to development at a rate of nearly 2 million acres annually, with the prime farmland soils being the most frequently lost.³ In this county agricultural land can be some of the easiest and least expensive land to develop, although most of our prime farmland soils are in areas too wet to be easily developed. Our farmland is also changing as a balance is sought between improving salmon habitat conditions and maintaining productive operations.

Agriculture in Jefferson County also includes shellfish farms in the prolific marine tidelands of North-east and Southeast Jefferson County. Oyster farming became established in the early 1900's around the Hood Canal communities. Today this industry represents nearly 75% of the Jefferson County's market value of agricultural products sold.⁴

Unique Characteristics and Assets

The lowland hills, valleys, plateaus and basins of the county have all been sculpted in large part by glacial processes. The landscape features owe their existence to the slow movement of ice, rock and water over their surfaces for thousands of years, rasping out depressions in some places and leaving rocky and sandy deposits in others. Upon retreat of the ice sheets, the valleys and depressions became filled with sediment and went through the processes of organic accumulation. These thousands of years of succession have left Jefferson County with some exceptional soils.

¹ United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>

² Calculated from percentages in 2007 Agricultural Census data, and Jefferson County Land Use Designation GIS data, 2008.

³ Farmland Information Center. <http://www.farmlandinfo.org/>

⁴ United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Washington/cp53031.pdf

WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY

Only a small proportion of the river valley bottoms is currently used for agriculture in West Jefferson County, although our greatest proportion of prime farmland soils can be found there. Across the entire West Jefferson County landscape only 300 acres are classified as agricultural land in the county tax records, and they are all found exclusively along the river corridors. The earliest settlers of West Jefferson County had the colossal task of clearing the enormous forests to make space for agricultural production. Many of these earliest of clearings continue to be maintained for livestock production amidst the regeneration forests and important habitat of the rivers' channel migration zones. Heavy precipitation and cloud cover make growing most conventional agricultural products a challenging endeavor in West Jefferson County; some farms receive over 120 inches of precipitation annually.

SOUTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

Climatic conditions in Southeast Jefferson County make for high-quality growing conditions. With temperature averages ranging between 38 in January and 61 in August, farmers can maintain a year-round growing season in the rich lowlands near Quilcene and the river valleys. Some of the highest quality soils for agricultural use in the county can be found in the Big Quilcene River and Little Quilcene River alluvial deposits.

The Hood Canal tidelands host some of the best oyster growing conditions in the world. Miles of private and privately leased public tidelands are managed for shellfish production in the greater Hood Canal area, including Dabob and Quilcene Bays. The relatively low levels of development surrounding these waters, combined with the hydrographic conditions of Hood Canal, have been the cornerstone for the shellfish industry in the county.

NORTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

The entire county undergoes a period of drought during the summer months. This consistent lack of rain fall during the peak growing season makes irrigation and water conservation ongoing issues for farms, particularly in Northeast Jefferson County where annual average precipitation falls to below 19 inches for some farm land. While the lack of water is a principle challenge, farmland in Northeast Jefferson County has been the agricultural center of this region for over 150 years and can sustain future generations indefinitely if managed well.

Achieving the Vision

PRIORITY PLACES

- Productive shorelines and associated nearshore environments
- Prime farmland soils and/or proven productivity
- Proximity to population centers



Growth

DRIVING FORCES:

CONVERSION

Development and associated conversion of farmland will accelerate with projected future population growth. With increased development, agricultural land often becomes fragmented in a way that makes it difficult for farmers to maintain profitable operations at an appropriate scale. As agricultural land is lost, core infrastructure for farming also retreats, increasing costs to the remaining farmers and encouraging future conversion to other uses. The subdivision of farm land located within or adjacent to population centers is of particular concern to many community members. People living in encroaching residential developments can find dust, noise, and odors associated with farm operations undesirable. This perceived conflict can cause otherwise productive farmland to become less desirable for agricultural use, and can increase the pressure to convert it for development. Farmers also expressed a growing concern about the potential threats to their water supply from excessive demand due to proliferation of residential wells. Finally, the average age of principle farmers in Jefferson County is 60.1 years, suggesting that there are growing numbers of current farmers getting closer to retirement. Those approaching retirement age often have few options for securing retirement funds other than from the sale of their land, their primary asset.

For shellfish farms, a principal driving force is not conversion of the actual tidelands to other uses, but the increased development of upstream watersheds and near-shore areas around working tidelands. Erosion, stormwater run-off, and poor septic performance all can result from development and can have devastating affects on shellfish farms. Oysters and other bivalve species are filter feeders, each processing more than 50 gallons of water daily, and are thus highly vulnerable to pollutants and toxic contaminants. In the prime growing areas of Hood Canal, the most significant requirements for continued shellfish production are the healthy condition of the shoreline environment, unpolluted run-off from contributory watersheds, and the availability of clean, unpolluted marine water.

OUR APPROACH:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For decades farmers in Jefferson County have been working hard to adapt to changing market conditions and resist conversion pressures. 2007 agriculture census data indicate a gain in the number of Jefferson County farms and amount of land being farmed since 1997, yet there has been a net loss of about 3,000 acres of farmland since the early 1980's. Looking back even further, the 1910 census identifies nearly 250% more agricultural land in the county than in the 2007 census.

When asked to identify specific places that represent important agricultural land that should be protected for future generations, the community repeatedly focused

their attention on farmland in or near towns and along highways (see Agriculture Conservation Planning map). Subject to the greatest development pressures, they are also some of the most visible, longest lived, and most productive. The Jefferson County Unified Development Code includes a 'right to farm' provision designed to help agricultural land maintain its ability to be farmed as it becomes surrounded by development. Several studies also show that farms closer to urbanizing areas can be more viable given their access to markets for high-value products, access to larger pools of seasonal laborers, location for agritourism opportunities, and direct marketing opportunities

GROWTH CONSERVATION ACTION

CONSERVE AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITHIN AND NEAR POPULATION CENTERS, AND MAIN TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

What We Heard

"[Support] agricultural land protection in Port Townsend"

"[Protect] pockets of agricultural land near urban areas for small locally-serving farms"

"Utilize the land in ways that minimize the need for transport of materials over long distances"

"[Protect] pockets of parks, wildland, and farms interspersed with urban living"

"[Protect] a mixture of agricultural, recreational and forest land with communities interspersed"



What We Heard

“The agricultural community needs to make itself known to the general population – things such as the farm tours and school visits are a good start”

“[Encourage] an informed and appreciative public that supports local farmers [and provides] a strong and consistent market for the products”

“Educate public and government about the need to support our farmers and increase our self reliance in food production”

“Encourage the spread of [farmers] knowledge and success, help them deal with difficulties when they arise”

Public Awareness

DRIVING FORCES:

Many in the community believe that local agriculture does not get the respect it deserves. Community input highlighted the genuine lack of public understanding about where food comes from and the lack of recognition for the value of the agricultural production of our region. With a global food system that results in the average food item traveling over 1,500 miles from farm to plate, people are less connected to farms than ever before. This growing disconnect is linked to an increased consumption of highly processed products with little resemblance to what is grown on the farm. Our farmers are the stewards of the pastoral views we love in our local landscapes, but are producers of only a small portion of the food we eat. While local farmers markets are growing locally, local food consumption makes up only 4% of the food consumed in Port Townsend and even less in other parts of the county. Our local agriculture industry is vital to the health of our local economy, communities, and environment, yet we have taken our farms for granted and their survival is threatened.

OUR APPROACH:

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Public support is the foundation of the community's vision and it can take many forms, like buying local agricultural products, responding to producers in need, instituting supportive public policy, or funding support organizations. To boost appreciation of local agriculture participants recommended promotion of the benefits that a thriving local agricultural industry brings to the regional quality of life. They emphasized the need to

focus these outreach efforts broadly and to include government staff and leaders. Several producers are already currently working to increase the level of public understanding in new ways. Particularly, Jefferson Landworks Collaborative works with farmers throughout the Northeast Jefferson County and Southeast Jefferson County to improve businesses, opportunities, and preserve farmland.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CONSERVATION ACTION

CONNECT AGRICULTURAL LANDS, PRODUCTS AND PRODUCERS WITH LOCAL POPULATION

Markets and Policy

DRIVING FORCES:

The production value of farmland, calculated from the value of farm products that can be produced on a property, is almost always less than the value of the land for non-agricultural uses. As population increases and development pressures increase, the price of agricultural land is driven up by the market demand for hobby farms, country estates, and commercial development close to population centers. Some agricultural property values have quadrupled in the last two decades and higher land valuations increase the potential for higher property tax bills. This can discourage investment in land and infrastructure improvements for fear that there will be no return on such investments at the point of sale. As the price for agricultural land increases, the number of younger farmers able to afford it decreases. Local needs assessments completed in 2001 and 2006 by Washington State University identified affordability of land as the number one concern for existing and new farmers.

Some farmers also clearly feel constrained by the accumulation of complex local, state, and federal regulations, which can be inconsistent and expensive to manage. Associated complexity and bureaucracy can be unintended deterrents to the development of necessary infrastructure to support and enhance agricultural operations and new types of agricul-

tural enterprises. Particularly, existing policy is seen as a major restraint to establishing profitable local processing facilities, supplying cafeterias with local foods, and maintaining viable farmland in areas with the highest development pressure. National price trends have affected the largest farms in the county most acutely. Costs related to transportation and farm supplies are also a major expense for commercial farms in Jefferson County, due partly to the lack of local farm infrastructure. Not only are products shipped out of the area for processing but the closest feed and equipment suppliers are east of the Puget Sound.

OUR APPROACH:

INCENTIVES AND LOCAL ECONOMY

Community members highly value the agricultural land in the county. They recognize producers face many challenging market and policy forces and often take great risks in maintaining their operations. The community agreed that we will become increasingly reliant on the local agricultural lands, and that there must be incentives available now to help ensure agricultural land remains available for production in the future. Market tools such as favorable tax credits and the purchase of development rights could be particularly useful tools, as they not only can reduce the risk of conversion, but can also increase the affordability of some land for new farmers. There was also specific support for the concept of linking local investors with interested farmers for the expansion of operations or development of new farming opportunities. Policy changes that would help farmers to maintain viable farms were also

suggested, and include improving those dealing with local processing and consumption of local food in local institutions.

Several suggestions for improving opportunities for new farmers were shared by participants. When current landowners are ready to sell their property, financing mechanisms need to be in place that encourage the transfer of agricultural land to the next generation of farmers. The community suggested more governmental support to help new agricultural businesses get started and thrive would be an important way to contribute to the local economy. This could take many forms, including: developing a regulatory approach that is streamlined and proportional; improving communication about potential careers in agriculture; reestablishing an agricultural extension program; linking retiring farmers with new farmers; and organizing seminars to share new ideas and opportunities.

MARKETS & POLICY CONSERVATION ACTION

INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCENTIVE-BASED FARMLAND CONSERVATION, AND IMPROVE SUPPORT FOR NEW FARMERS

What We Heard

“Organize local investor groups to support agriculture/invest locally in agriculture”

“Tackle barriers to buying for institutions such as schools, hospitals, senior centers...”

“[Support] the next generation of farmers”

“[Raise] more funding for land protection [and] provide increased incentives for land rich agricultural owners to transfer property to the next generation of farmers”



What We Heard

“Support creative solutions to water issues—storage, transfer of water rights, water banking etc.”

“[Promote] education and encouragement about using existing water rights”

“Share water with Fish and Agriculture”

“[Adequate] water is needed to ensure a viable agricultural economy”

Climate Change

DRIVING FORCES:

The producers in the county are well adapted to the current climate conditions of the county – seasonal rainfall, temperatures, and drought have been relatively predictable occurrences over the past 150 years of production. The impending shifts in known climate patterns present an uncertainty and major challenge for the future of agricultural production. Particularly, the community recognized the allocation of water resources as a driving force that will present ongoing challenges. Shellfish farming will be faced with warmer water temperatures and increasing acidification of the marine waters (a result of increased levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere). These factors are thought to already be severely reducing oyster seed production in Jefferson County. There is also a growing concern that the effects of climate change will increase the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, resulting in a loss of harvest opportunities.

OUR APPROACH:

ECOLOGY AND ADAPTATION

Agriculture plays a profound role in the health and quality of the local ecosystems. In Jefferson County, water is the principal interface between agriculture and ecosystem health. This is a complex issue, rife with uncertainties and complicated by projected effects of climate change. Land-based agriculture requires fresh water, especially

during our annual late summer drought. Salmon require cool clean streams with sufficient flows throughout the year. In order to maintain productive farms and healthy salmon populations, we must manage our water resources in ways that are compatible with both of these needs.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSERVATION ACTION

SUPPORT CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO WATER RESOURCE SCARCITY AND QUALITY FOR HABITAT AND AGRICULTURAL USES





photo: Finnriver Farm



photo: Finnriver Farm





Agriculture Conservation Planning

East and West Jefferson County, Washington

Analysis and Cartography by
S. DeLorey
April 2010

For informational and strategic planning use only.

This is a tool for identifying possible sites for voluntary conservation efforts.

All boundaries are approximate.



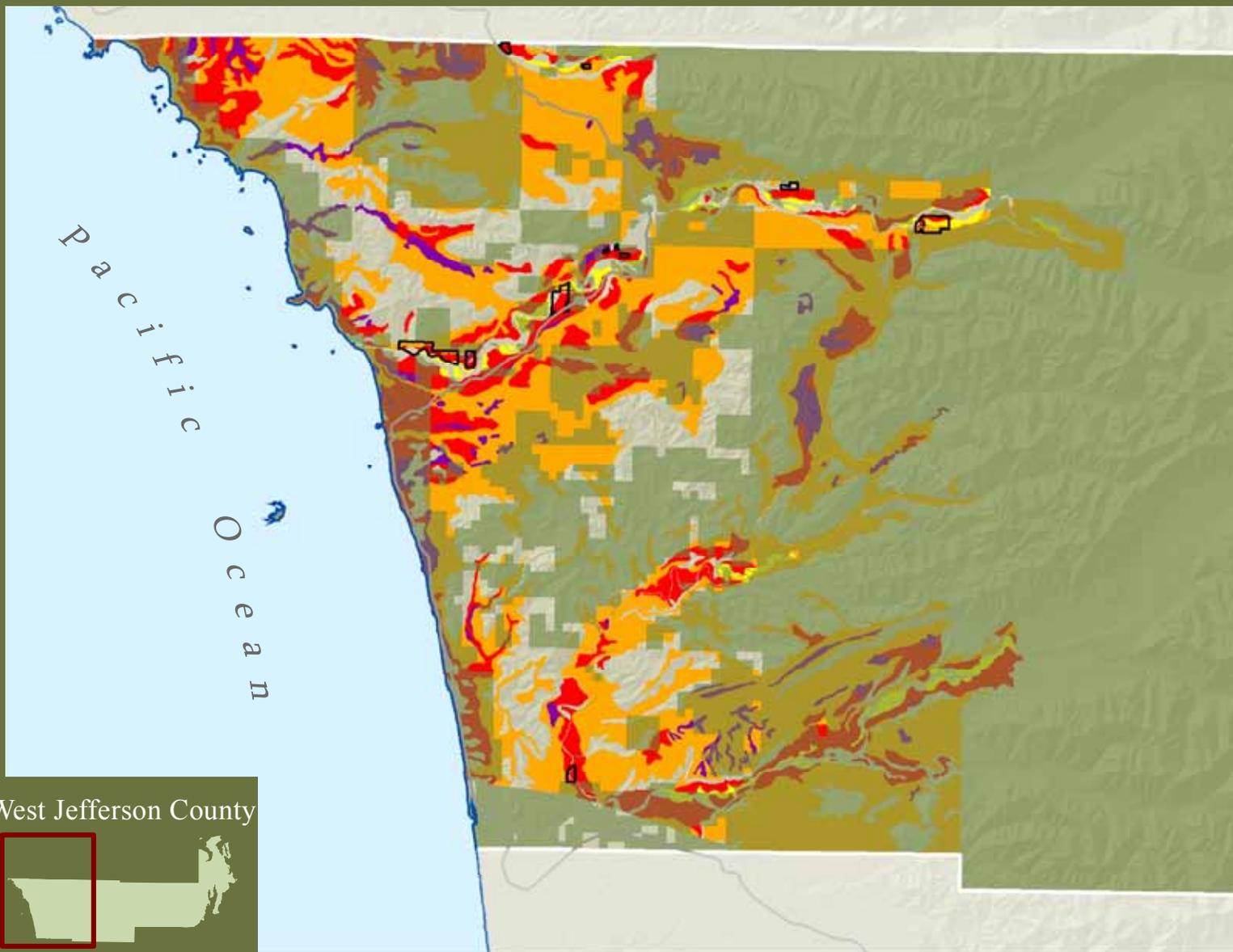
Data Sources Agricultural Soils data was derived from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Soil Survey Geographic Database by the US Department of Agriculture (2007). Prime Soils are typically suited to a wide range of cultivated crops, pasture, woodland and wildlife. They are nearly level, deep, easily worked, productive, suited to intensive cropping, and have low erosion hazards. Local climate and other conditions can limit productivity. Soils of Statewide Importance have limitations that prevent normal tillage of cultivated crops, and may be best suited as woodlands, but agricultural benefits from proper management can be expected.

Agriculture Tax Designation information is derived from Jefferson County Assessors Office, and represents parcels enrolled in the county Current Use Taxation program (02/2008).

Commercial Shellfish Growing Areas data was provided by the Washington Department of Health (2007).

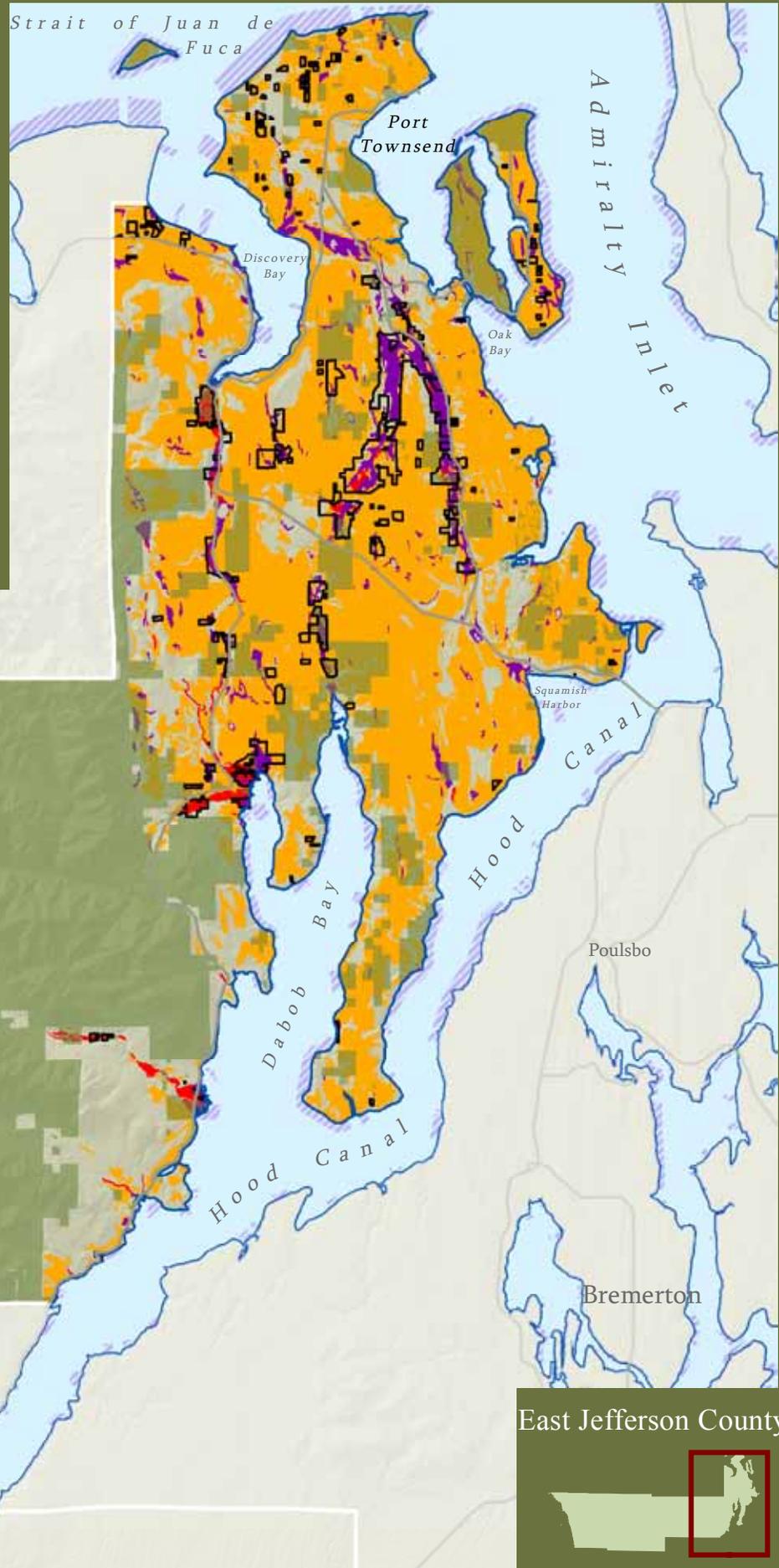
Protected Land data was provided by Cascade Land Conservancy (12/2008), and includes protected working agricultural land.

Community Identified Specific Priority Areas are derived from data collected at 2008 conservation planning meetings.

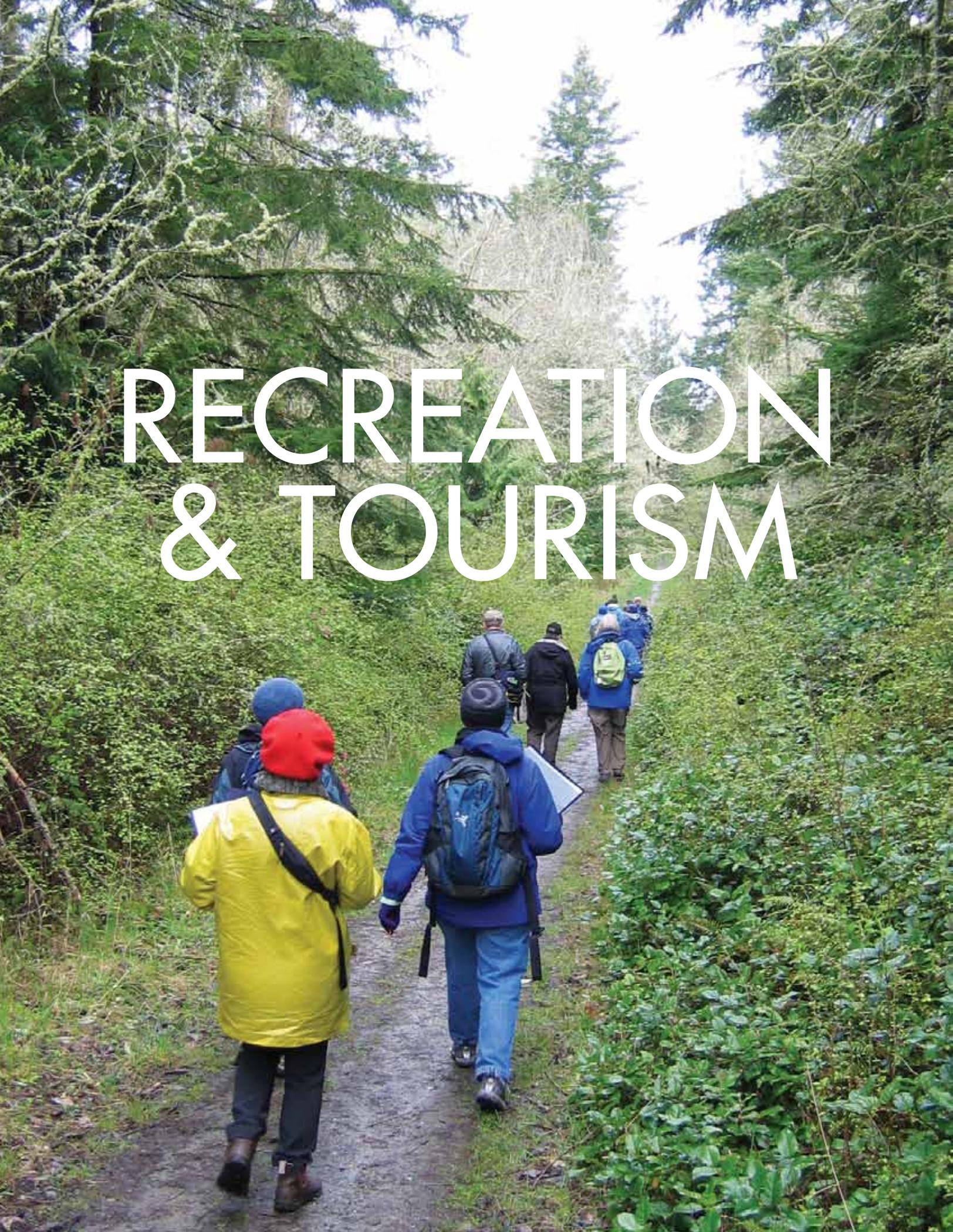


Community Identified Specific Priority Areas

- Beaver Valley
- Center Valley
- Crocker Lake area
- Dosewallips River Valley
- Duckabush River Valley
- Hastings Valley
- Lake Leland area
- Little Quilcene River Valley
- Marrowstone Isl. farmland
- Port Townsend agricultural areas
- Quilcene agricultural areas
- Tarboo Valley
- Tukey Lake area
- Uncas Valley
- West Valley/Eaglepoint area



RECREATION & TOURISM



VISION

The wild and scenic character of our county is preserved and a network of trail corridors and recreation lands provides abundant access to natural rural areas and connectivity between our towns.

In Perspective

The Olympic Peninsula has been a refuge of natural beauty for thousands of years, and for more than a century it has attracted outdoor enthusiasts and sightseers from all over the world. They come for the wildness, the vistas, the wildlife, the mountains, the adventures, and for quiet reflection. This nature-based recreation and tourism is a major economic driver and a major contributor to our quality of life. You're never too far from a hike in the forest, a walk on the beach, a picnic by the river, or a paddle on the bay – this is part of what makes living and working here so enriching.

As early as the late 1800's the Olympic Peninsula was attracting excursions from Seattle and beyond. People came by steamer to picnic, hike, hunt, and fish in the river valleys and mountains. By 1903 the Brinnon area was a favorite tourism destination, pronounced to be "the finest there is for trout streams, waterfalls, hik-

ing, boaters, and is a camper's paradise."¹ Resort, guide services, and transport services all thrived with the region's growing popularity. The creation of the Olympic National Park in 1938 guaranteed a long future of visitors seeking nature-based experiences.

An estimated three million people² visit the Olympic National Park each year, most of whom travel through Jefferson County. For these visitors seeking natural beauty and inspiration, the surrounding lands of Jefferson County are more than just a gateway to Olympic National Park destinations. They make up a scenic landscape full of its own recreation and tourism opportunities and they can become an important part of a visitor's experience. The abundant open space – the forests, the farms, the parks, the shorelines, the undeveloped land in and near towns – is an underlying quality that influences how we all view and experience this place.

Unique Characteristics and Assets

No other Washington county includes such a diverse geographic exposure. Marine waters of the coast and inland sea, glacier-clad mountain peaks, world renowned temperate rain forests, free flowing rivers, and lowland forests and valleys all make Jefferson County outstanding in its nature-based recreation and tourism appeal. In fact, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization declared the Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site in 1981; the natural landscape of Jefferson County is a recreation and tourism highlight of the world.

Approximately three-fourths of the land area in the County is in public ownership and available for recreation purposes. In addition to 46 sites for outdoor recreational activities such as camping or fishing on State and Federal land, there are 62 parks and recreational sites managed by Jefferson County, the City of Port Townsend, and the Port of Port Townsend. Some private land is also available for recreation purposes, including some of the working forest landscape and some land trust conservation land.

Located within and between these public and private lands, there is a growing inventory of non-motorized transportation and recreational trails. These systems provide a variety of off-road opportunities for walking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and even water trail activities throughout the county.

¹ Port Townsend Leader, Aug 22, 1903

² Visitation to Olympic National Park for 2008 was estimated to be 3,081,451, while the annual average number of visitors to Olympic National Park between 1988 and 2008 is estimated by the National Park Service to be 3,182,583.



WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY

West Jefferson County is a nature-based recreation and tourism showcase for Jefferson County. The wild coast and ancient temperate rain forests protected within the boundaries of Olympic National Park host over 1.5 million visitors every year³. The 30 miles of shoreline along the Pacific Ocean in the West is predominantly located within the Olympic National Park, with the remainder located within the boundaries of the Quinault and Hoh Nations. Rivers in West Jefferson County are much larger in scale than those in Southeast Jefferson County, have good road and trail accessibility, and have intact upper reaches protected within the Olympic National Park. Seasonal recreational use on the major rivers affords opportunities for drift boating, rafting, wildlife viewing, white water kayaking, fishing and hunting that are not available elsewhere within Jefferson County.



SOUTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

For the majority of the county population, and the visitors from the Seattle metropolitan area, one of the closest access points to the wild Olympic interior is through Southeast Jefferson County. Tourism in this part of the county is almost exclusively nature-based. Although support services are limited, and have actually declined over the past two decades, it provides some of the county's best recreation and tourism opportunities in wildlife watching, sight-seeing, shellfish harvesting, shrimping, and fishing.

NORTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY

One major recreation and tourism effort includes the conversion of the abandoned Seattle & North Coast Railroad grade into the Larry Scott Memorial Trail. This six-mile multipurpose trail connects the City of Port Townsend with surrounding residential areas and includes amenities such as benches, bike racks, interpretive signs, kiosk and restrooms. Approximately eight miles of the trail remain to be constructed before being incorporated into the Olympic Discovery Trail system. The Olympic Discovery Trail will ultimately cross the entire North Olympic Peninsula, extending from Port Townsend to the Pacific Coast at La Push.

Other trail linkage projects are gaining momentum, particularly around the population centers in Northeast Jefferson County. Several recreation lands have extensive trail networks, but few linkages between them or to residential areas. With the greatest percentage of the county population, Northeast Jefferson County also has the greatest concentration of state and county parks. These parks, trails, and other accessible places provide excellent nature-based recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Northeast Jefferson County is also the primary source of services for Olympic National Park destined tourists.

Achieving the Vision

PRIORITY PLACES

- Trails, greenbelts, and accessible natural areas
- Shoreline and river access
- Scenic vistas
- Culturally significant places



Growth

DRIVING FORCES:

CONVERSION

There are tracts of open space that are especially important to the wild and naturally scenic character of the county, and their conversion to residential, commercial or industrial uses could have a large impact on recreation and tourism values. People are drawn to the area in part because it isn't commercialized and developed like so many other places. If development and growth were to conform to the patterns of sprawl, something essential would be lost. Jefferson County can and will continue to grow, but we must use that growth to enhance, not extinguish, the very things that make it such a spectacular place to live and visit. Growing communities will need the open space, natural landscapes, and outdoor recreation opportunities even more in the future. The community's response to the pressures that growth has on the natural landscapes and open spaces will have a critical impact on the quality of life of future generations.

OUR APPROACH:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thinking ahead and planning for change is a central message the community shared when considering how to preserve our natural resources to augment nature-based recreation and tourism. There was particular focus on the importance of conserving areas for recreation and scenic values around our towns. The opportunities for conservation

of these areas are increasingly limited, yet their importance to the livability and attraction of our towns is increasing. The community recognizes that now may be the best time we will ever have to secure a legacy of open space and abundant areas for recreation for our neighborhoods and visitors.

GROWTH CONSERVATION ACTION

INCREASE NETWORK OF PERMANENT GREENBELTS WITHIN AND NEAR RESIDENTIAL AREAS

What We Heard

"[Open spaces] provide habitat and a mental health refuge"

"Open space [and] natural beauty play a huge role in the draw to our county"

"The Quimper Wildlife Corridor...has tremendous value"

"Chimacum Creek [offers] key open spaces accessible to dense residential areas"

"[Respond to] need for recreation opportunities close to home"



Public Awareness

DRIVING FORCES:

All across the rapidly growing Pacific Northwest people are looking back to the days when a favorite hillside, now scattered with houses, used to be an iconic scenic feature of the landscape - realizing the value of what they had after it's gone. Participants recognized that a lack of understanding about the true contribution of open spaces to our economic development and quality of life, allows for short-sighted changes to occur that can have permanent impacts on our region's identity and disposition.

OUR APPROACH:

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Protection of our wild and scenic landscape doesn't happen spontaneously. It happens when there is public awareness about the benefits that our wild and naturally scenic amenities provide. The community called upon Jefferson Land Trust to continually educate the public and policy makers about the benefits

of conservation efforts. It was also clear to much of the community that our successes and opportunities in conservation, recreation, and tourism are inextricably linked and are all contingent on greater coordination between key stakeholders.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CONSERVATION ACTION

ENGAGE RECREATION AND TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF BENEFITS, NEEDS, AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LAND CONSERVATION



Markets and Policy

DRIVING FORCES:

Tourism and recreation are and will continue to be major economic drivers in our county. However, this segment of our economy faces many future stresses. Most visitors to the Olympic Peninsula do a fair amount of traveling to get here, and rising fuel costs will be an underlying factor in their ability to make the trip. Increasing costs associated with protecting land, establishing recreation infrastructure, and stewardship of these resources are also primary market factors the community identified as affecting the recreation and tourism potential of the future. Important sources of funding to help meet these rising costs are often born from supportive public policy. While the private land of Jefferson County is the scenic foundation for residents and visitors alike, it is largely the public lands that offer the recreation opportunities. Conservation efforts to maintain the scenic qualities of the county and increase the recreation lands network are ultimately dependent on long-term funding sources and their prioritization in public policy.

What We Heard

“Support local elected officials by providing the tools and training they need to be lead advocates for the intersection of commerce, conservation and recreation. We could really be a leader and model if we could do this right”

“[Support] public education of the values of our natural resources – cultivate a grassroots movement that values and protects the things that make this county so livable and desirable for commerce, recreation and tourism”

“[Encourage] a commitment to collaboration at all levels in recreation, tourism and conservation efforts”

“[Communicate] the opportunities to the broader public”

“[Educate] the citizens in the communities about the values of [conservation efforts, recreation and tourism] and how they can complement each other”

What We Heard

“[Preserve] green spaces and unobstructed vistas... [Resolve] lack of prioritization”

“The natural environment IS the primary draw for tourism and recreation in our county – by far”

“[Protect the] wildness – especially the west side rivers. Many people come to Jefferson County to experience the wild/ rugged recreation”

OUR APPROACH:

INCENTIVES AND LOCAL ECONOMY

The scenic and historical features of the county provide for cultural continuity over generations. They contribute to our sense-of-place and regional identity. They are also essential to our local economy. Several studies have arrived at the same conclusion over the years: the conservation of scenic open space and recreation lands is good for the local economy.⁴ Rising property values, increased spending on recreation, increased

attraction for tourism, enhanced quality of life, fewer residents traveling away for recreation, hazard mitigation, and pollution control are just some of the ways conservation is recognized as an economic benefit for communities. It is also widely recognized that open space land provides more in tax revenue than it demands in public services, while the opposite is true for most suburban forms of residential development.

MARKETS & POLICY CONSERVATION ACTION

IDENTIFY AND PROTECT SCENIC AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES THAT HELP MAINTAIN THE WILD AND NATURALLY SCENIC CHARACTER OF OUR COUNTY

Climate Change

DRIVING FORCES:

Our nature-based recreation and tourism sectors could be vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Scenic resources could be diminished by the predicted increase in forest fire, disease, and drought, while changes in populations and distributions of wildlife may reduce tourism appeal. The community also recognized that increased storm damage, winter and spring flooding, and rising sea levels will limit access to some of our treasured tourism destinations and recreation lands. Climate models have predicted the Pacific Northwest will experience less severe impacts from climate change, which could increase human migration to Jefferson County as conditions intensify elsewhere.

The resilience of our nature-based recreation and tourism resources will depend on how we respond to all the other driving forces. It will also depend on local and global initiatives to reduce emissions, effectively making the travel required by recreation or tourism opportunities a growing factor in visitor attraction.

OUR APPROACH:

ECOLOGY AND ADAPTATION

The scenic open space and recreation lands protected today will provide ecological, social, and economic benefits long into the future. They will also be important resources as we adapt to climate change. The community expects that our adaptation to changes will include an increasing dependence on our local environment for resources, including

energy and recreation resources for a growing population. Expanding our network of trail corridors is a responsive strategy that is widely supported by the community. Improving safe travel linkages for non-motorized use between residential areas, towns, and recreation areas would increase access, improve quality of life, and attract more visitors.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSERVATION ACTION

EXPAND TRAIL CORRIDOR NETWORK TO INCREASE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN TOWNS AND RECREATION AREAS

⁴ Land Trust Alliance, 1994. "Economic Benefits of Land Protection," Land Trust Alliance InfoPak Series. LTA Washington DC.

What We Heard

"People's experiences are very visual because they are not often actually on the water, or in the mountains, or swimming in the bay"

"Prevent fragmentation of large resource lands – which provide jobs/commerce, recreation (and much more potential recreation), and scenic viewsheds"

What We Heard

"[Promote] further development of walking and bicycling trails and routes"

"[Resolve] lack of trail network for walking and biking...Provide areas for safer biking"

"[Improve] connectivity between recreational and open space areas"

"[Increase] beach access and connecting trails between public lands"

"Encourage regional self-sufficiency"





Recreation & Tourism Conservation Planning

East and West Jefferson County, Washington

Analysis and Cartography by S. DeLorey
April 2010

For informational and strategic planning use only.

This is a tool for identifying possible sites for voluntary conservation efforts.

All boundaries are approximate.

Map Legend

Community Identified Priority Areas with Recreation and Tourism Values

Transportation

- Trail
- Railroad Grade or Railroad
- Road
- Highways

Shoreline Public Access

- Public Shoreline
 - Private Shoreline with Public Access
 - Accessible Public Shoreline
- Shoreline is within 500ft of a public access point or a recreation beach in the Puget Sound*



- State Forests
- Public Parks

- Streams
- Lakes

- Salt Water
- County Boundaries

Data Sources

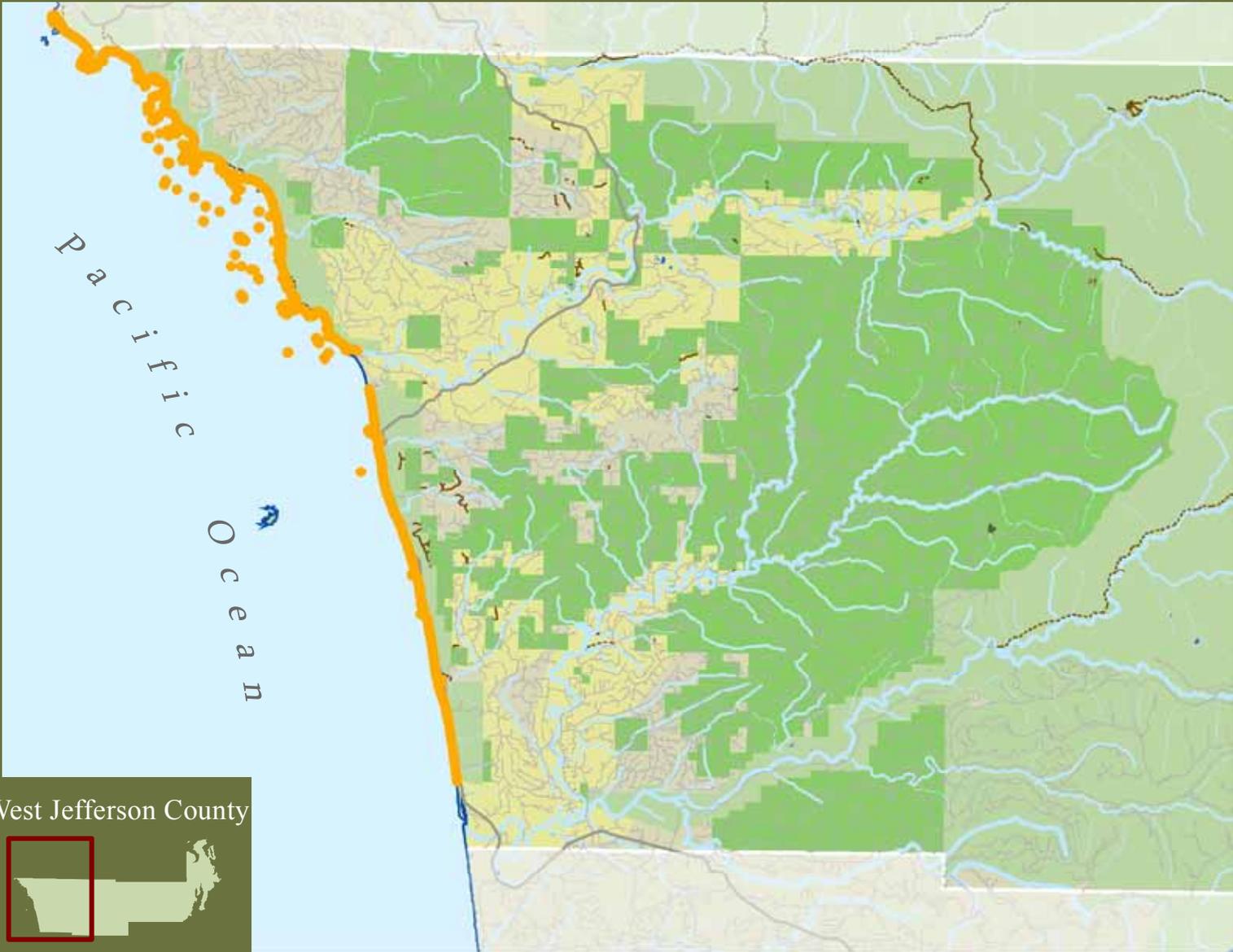
Community Identified Priority Areas data was derived from 2008 conservation planning meetings, and includes areas with important naturally scenic values.

Transportation data was derived from WA Dept. Natural Resources (2009), and Jefferson County GIS (2009).

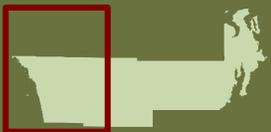
Public and Private Shoreline data was created by Washington State Department of Ecology Shoreline Public Access Project (DOE, 2008). Accessible Public Shoreline (Puget Sound Area) was provided by the Trust for Public Land and is derived from data created by CommEn Space (2006).

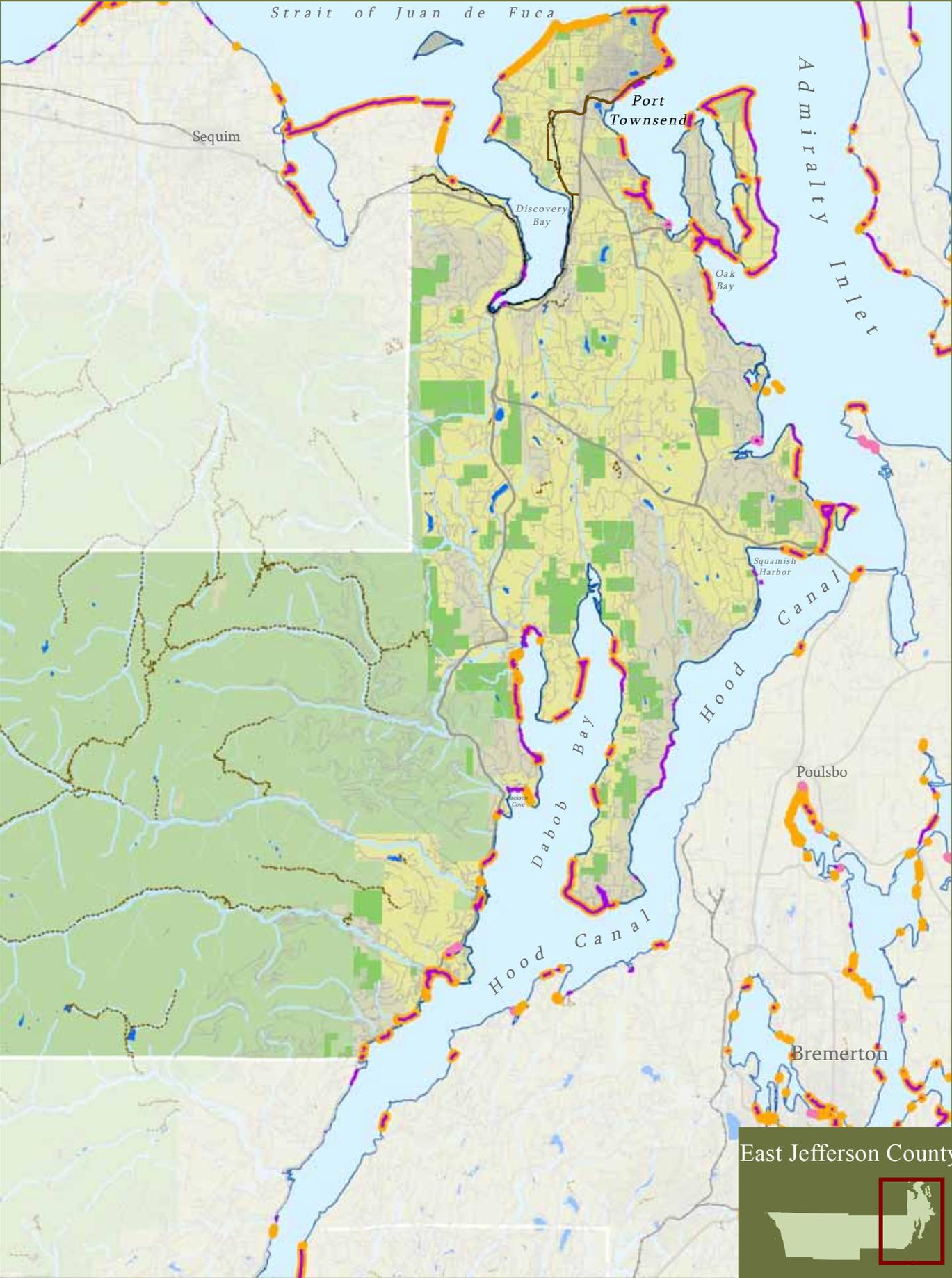
State Forests data are derived from Protected Lands Database created from multiple sources by Cascade Land Conservancy (2008).

Parks data was provided by Jefferson County GIS (2009); County Boundary derived from WA Dept. of Transportation (1995).



West Jefferson County





Recreation and Tourism Conservation Planning Map

helping the community preserve

open space,

working land,

and habitat

forever



Jefferson Land Trust
1033 Lawrence Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

360.379.9501
info@saveland.org
www.saveland.org

